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SOCCER

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CHAMPIONS...



MAN UTD NEXT!

SOCCER WEEKLY

AUSSIE & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

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Aldan Ormond is on annual leave

Acting Editor: Daniel Giorelano

CORRESPONDENTS

Dwight Tuffnell (Melbourne), Glenn Davis (Brisbane), Richard Kreider (Perth), Nick Gouth (Canberra), Margaret Bowden/Donald Campbell (Adelaide).

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: Roy Hay, Craig Wilson, Janene Mar, Daryl Katz, 'Soccer Spice', Bonnie Merslades, Melissa Muscat, The Four Diegos, Ben Cubby, Mark Stavroulakis, Eva Loukas.

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REMINDER

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clicking on E-mail for their automated feedback sheet

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Remember, Soccer won the survey for most popular

football code in their recent Net site poll.

WHO'S THAT ON THE CATWALK?

CROCE COLOSIMO



Go to Page 4 to find out which Ericsson Cup stars have been modelling.

NSL Award Nominees

PLAYERS' PLAYER OF THE YEAR — Warren Medal

Con Boutsianis	Perth Glory
Pablo Cardozo	Sydney Olympic (right)
Brad Maloney	Marconi Fairfield
Mile Sterjovski	Sydney United
Paul Trimboli	South Melbourne



UNDER-21 PLAYER OF THE YEAR — Papasavas Medal

Simon Colosimo	Carlton
Joel Griffiths	Sydney United
Mile Sterjovski	Sydney United
Zeljko Susa	Melbourne Knights

COACH OF THE YEAR

Graham Arnold	Northern Spirit
David Mitchell	Sydney United
Ange Postecoglou	South Melbourne
Bernd Stange	Perth Glory

GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR

Bob Catlin	Newcastle Breakers
Paul Henderson	Northern Spirit
Jason Petkovic	Adelaide City
Michael Petkovic	South Melbourne



NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE — NORTHERN DIVISION

Chad Bishop	Wollongong Wolves
Simon Catanzaro	NSW Institute of Sport
Ljubo Milicevic (left)	Australian Institute of Sport

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE — SOUTHERN DIVISION

Andrew Mashoian	South Melbourne
Nick Tolios	Carlton
Deniz Ekici	Carlton

The awards night is
in Sydney on
June 11

NATIONAL UNI SQUAD FOR WORLD CUP

Steven Angelov	University of Newcastle	Scott McIlroy	University of Newcastle
Adam Mark	UNSW	Andrew Clark	University of Sydney
Ben Appledorn	University of Queensland	Todd Patch	Southern Cross University
Adem Kose	Swinburne	Adrian Caniglia	VUT
John Fusco	University of South Australia	Scott Halpin	Murdoch University
Iain Scott	University of Melbourne	Glen Kolpak	University of Queensland
Mick Jones	University of Newcastle		
Doug West	University of Newcastle		
Jamie Harnwell	University of Western Australia		
Damien Brown	Australian Catholic University		
Scott Wells	University of New England		
Todd Harnwell	University of Western Australia		

The 1999 World University Summer Games will be held 2-13 July in Mallorca Spain, and, as you can see, we have NSL players in the squad, including Glory's Jamie Harnwell and Scott Halpin, and Brisbane's Glenn Kolpak.

Australian News

MATILDAS DRESSED THE POWER FOR SUCCESS OF ONE!

By Craig Wilson

"We're confident that we'll do very well," said captain Julie Murray as the Matildas received a warm World Cup send off at the Airport Hilton in Sydney on Monday.

Making time for a press conference before boarding their flight to Portland Oregon, Murray and nine other members of the Matildas squad will be playing in their second consecutive World Cup finals.

Confident of at least making the quarter-finals, the squad warm-up with games against the US and Brazil, before travelling on to Toronto where they will play two games against Canada.

The US match will prepare the team for the sell-out crowds expected at the tournament, with over 22,000 expected at Portland for the game on 3 June.

The Matildas will then travel to Boston to prepare for their opening match against Ghana on 20 June.

The 1999 World Cup will be the biggest women's sporting event in history, and in a country where soccer is the largest women's competitive sport, half a million tickets are expected to be sold.

16 nations take part, with China, USA and Norway expected to challenge Australia for the championship.

Match venues are spread across the continent from San Jose to New Jersey, with games scheduled for Los Angeles, Chicago and Washington DC.

In keeping with their slogan, 'The new fashion in football,' the team arrived for the press conference looking glamorous but business-like in corporate wear sponsored by *Fashion on the Move*.

Defenders Bridgette Starr and Amy Taylor modeled the new Adidas



Julie Murray...captain courageous and confident of a successful World Cup.

home and away strip, the first time the company has designed specifically for women footballers.

Previous kit has been scaled down from the male version.

"They have a marvelous opportunity to inspire a new generation of women footballers," said Coach Greg Brown, adding that the Matildas are a team we can all be proud of.

For the experienced Murray, this will be her first World Cup as captain.

"I learned a lot from the last World Cup," she said. "I'm just going to play my own game and lead by example."

Matildas fans will have the opportunity to follow the tournament on TV, although at the time of going to press, details had not been finalised.

By Aidan Ormond

And the star of this electrifying drama, full of passion and commitment? John Anastasiadis. Well, we did warn you! We predicted he would sit on the bench, and we foreshadowed his 'threat as an impact player'.

The former Greek First Division player, who has been at the sharp end of South Melbourne's achievements in these last two years, — despite being kept out by Curcija and Coveny for most of the season — did it again, constructing his own dramatic two part Greek Tragedy, with the red shirts of Sydney United the fall guys for this piece of pure theatre.

Such is the power of one.

And in true showbiz fashion, he has left us all wanting more, exiting stage left to a thunderous applause, that is, if his wish to leave the club comes true.

At only 30 this prolific poacher, this artisan of assassins, has many more shows left in him. And I am sure the Blue and White Army will want another encore from their star player. And so does Australia. It was a fitting finale for the player and the Ericsson Cup.

All the colour of this magic Grand Final can be found on pages 11 to 14, with the National Youth League final on page 15. Pics of the NYL Grand Final are courtesy of Roy Hay.

The final full NSL season of the century has been fascinating because we have had a glimpse into the future. Northern Spirit, in its first year, Auckland Kings, beginning next season and Perth Glory, in its third, have shown us a model for the future NSL Club; a future that bodes well. One with no community specific ties, fully professional in set-up and a deep commitment to the Big M: marketing.

The crowds have duly responded, the media has got excited (TV ratings for the Glory/Marconi game went through the roof) and the pro players are earning good money.

In fact, the finals' attendances (total about 120,000) are largely made up from two Glory home games



John Anastasiadis ... loves the big games!

(53,000), and one from Spirit (17,000).

Yet it was two of the older clubs, South Melbourne and Sydney United, who finished in the Grand Final, and it is here where these new clubs now want success.

While South's future, with the World Club Championship money and sponsors lining up, seems assured, less financial traditional clubs, like Sydney United, Melbourne Knights and Adelaide Shurks (see story this issue), face bleak futures. Quality players gravitate to the clubs whose turnstiles and business acumen ensure them healthy pay packets, and who can blame them?

Clubs like Marconi, however, have already seen the light, and are currently involved in a bold new campaign to attract new fans.

The league is heading in the right direction because the stakes have been raised for the so-called mainstream and traditional clubs. A mix of strong clubs of each ilk is a potent recipe for success.

Now all we need is World Cup glory and we'll be really on our way.



AUSTRALIA'S 1999 WORLD CUP SCHEDULE

Player	Pos	State	Hometown	DOB	Caps
Dianne Alagich	D	SA	Adelaide	12/05/79	5
Traci Bartlett*	D	ACT	Sydney	17/05/72	37
Sharon Black	M	SA	Adelaide	04/04/71	36
Lisa Casagrande*	M	ACT	Lismore	29/05/78	52
Sarah Cooper*	D	ACT	Darwin	08/10/69	46
Alicia Ferguson	F	QLD	Brisbane	31/10/81	14
Alison Forman* (V/Capt)	M	NNSW	Maitland	17/03/69	44
Kelly Golebiowski	M	NSW	Sydney	26/07/81	10
Peita-Claire Hepperlin	M	ACT	Canberra	24/12/81	2
Angela Iannotta*	F	ACT	Albury	22/03/71	26
Belinda Kitching	GK	QLD	Ipswich	15/07/77	28
Julie Murray* (Captain)	F	NSW	Canberra	28/04/80	57
Joanne Peters	M	NSW	Sydney	11/03/79	24
Cheryl Salisbury*	M	NNSW	Newcastle	08/03/74	44
Bridgette Starr	D	NSW	Newcastle	10/12/75	35
Kristyn Swaffer	D	SA	Adelaide	13/12/75	23
Anissa Tann-Darby*	D	NSW	Sydney	10/10/67	67
Amy Taylor	D	ACT	Canberra	11/06/79	14
Tracey Wheeler*	GK	WA	Sydney	26/09/67	33
Amy Wilson	M	ACT	Canberra	09/06/80	7

* denotes World Cup 1995 Team

Matildas' World Cup Schedule

Preparation —		
3 June	USA v Australia	Portland USA
6 June	Brazil v Australia	Portland USA
9 June	Canada v Australia	Toronto CAN
12 June	Canada v Australia	Toronto-CAN

Matildas' Group D Matches —		
Sun 20 June	Australia v Ghana	Boston
Wed 23 June	Australia v Sweden	Washington DC
Sat 26 June	China v Australia	New York

Finals Schedule —		
Wed 30 June	Quarterfinals Gps C & D	San Jose
Thu 1 July	Quarterfinals Gps A & B	Washington DC
Sun 4 July	Semifinal C/D	Boston
Sun 4 July	Semifinal A/B	San Francisco
Sat 10 July	3rd Playoff & FINAL	Los Angeles

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
USA	Germany	Norway	China
North Korea	Brazil	Japan	AUSTRALIA
Nigeria	Mexico	Canada	Ghana
Denmark	Italy	Russia	Sweden



**A.C. UNITED
SOCCER
CLUB**

**Youth League
Div. 1**

U/16 PLAYERS REQUIRED

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INFORMATION**

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Australian News

MELBOURNE GETS THE OLYROOS FIRST?

By Dwyght Tuffnell

The Olyroos are nearly certain to kick off next year's Olympic Games at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The Olympic Football tournament begins two days before the official start of the Games, with SOCOG keen to have the Olyroos playing at the MCG.

Trevor Dohnt, SOCOG's Football Event Director, said at the official launch in Melbourne last week, that SOCOG had approached FIFA to have the Olyroos first preliminary round match in Melbourne on September 13.

"SOCOG have put a proposal forward to FIFA to have the first match here involving the Olyroos" said Dohnt.

"It is not yet confirmed but we've certainly had some good indications from FIFA that their organising committee that they've set up will hear that recommendation in November."

Dohnt said he was "very confident" that SOCOG would be given the green light by FIFA to stage the first Olyroo game at the MCG.

Qualifiers for the remaining 15 spots — Australia qualifies as host nation — tournament are still on-going and the draw will be held on May 27th 2000.

The MCG will play host to seven sessions of Olympic Football (one session is a double header of a men's and women's match), plus a men's quarter final and semi final match.

The Gold Medal match will be played at the Sydney Olympic Stadium on September 30.

Dohnt said that the interest for the Football tournament in Melbourne was strong and continuing to grow.

"The momentum is building. We've received very good feedback from the public" he said.

"We've spoken to the MCC (Melbourne Cricket Club) members and have also gone out to all the registered soccer players here in Melbourne and the initial interest in attending matches has been strong."

To allow the matches to be played at the MCG, the AFL Grand Final, traditionally played on the last Saturday in September, has been moved forward to September 2.

Following that, the MCG surface will be re-turfed to come up to Olympic requirement.

Victorian Minister For Sport, Tom Reynolds, said that tickets for the tournament will be amongst the cheapest of all events at the Games.

"Victorians will be able to see the Olympic's at very affordable prices, tickets for the preliminary rounds will be ranging from \$19 to \$65."

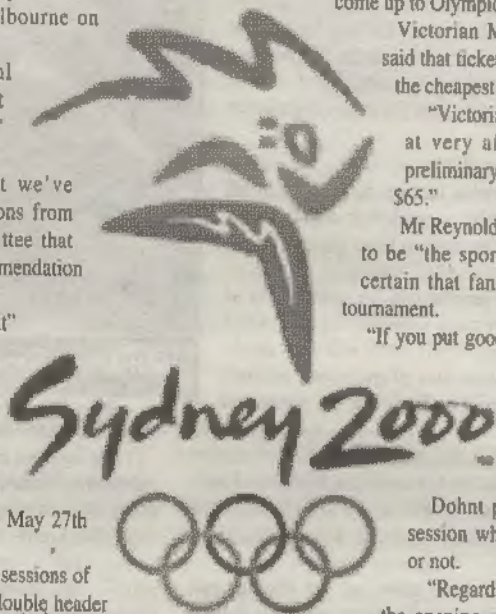
Mr Reynolds, who earlier proclaimed Melbourne to be "the sporting capital of the universe", was certain that fans would flock to the MCG for the tournament.

"If you put good sport on in Melbourne, we turn up in droves. A couple of years ago we had 86,000 at the MCG for a rugby match. 79,000 people didn't know the rules, but came because it was good sport."

Dohnt predicted a full house for the first session whether the Olyroos were taking part or not.

"Regardless of who will be playing here in the opening match, I can see no reason why we wouldn't get a full house for the first game" Dohnt said.

Victorians will get the chance to see top quality soccer at the MCG before the Olympics next year with Mr Reynolds announcing that there were plans to hold test events later this year or early 2000.



AUSSIE SQUAD NAMED

The 20 man Olyroo squad for an up to two month camp at the AIS and NSW HQ is:

Danny Milosevic
Joe Didulica
Simon Colosimo
Buddy Farah
Con Blatsis
Ivan Zelic
Kasey Wehrman
Nick Sabljak
Steve Laybutt
Dragi Nastevski
Michael Garcia
Marco Bresciano
Michael Curcija
Mile Sterjovski
Clayton Zane
Nick Carle
Brett Emerton
Jacob Burns
Jason Culina
Zeljko Susa

Perth
Knights
Carlton
Marconi
South
Canberra
Brisbane
Ad City
Brisbane
Knights
Perth
Carlton
South
Syd Utd
Northern Spirit
UTS Sydney Olympic
UTS Sydney Olympic
Sydney United
UTS Sydney Olympic
Melbourne Knights



Steve Laybutt

THE CATWALK MODELS ON PAGE TWO ARE NONE OTHER THAN CARLTON'S KEEPER DEAN ANASTASIADIS, PLUS DAVID DELLA ROCCA AND ALEX MOREIRA. ACCORDING TO CROCE-COLOSIMO SPOKESWOMAN, LOUISE, THE LADS WERE "A DELIGHT TO WORK WITH, NO EGOS AND AND VERY EASY TO WORK WITH." THE COMPANY IS RUN BY SIMON COLOSIMO'S MOTHER INES AND HAS A STORE IN BRUNSWICK IN MELBOURNE.

Have Your Say ...

For far too long, we the real football supporters of this country, who have the health and well-being of our game at heart, have seen its image repeatedly tarnished by a minority from Sydney United.

From Marconi Stadium to North Sydney Oval to Brandon Park to Belmore to Bruce Stadium, they have exported their ugliness — their flares and other explosive devices, their threats and intimidation and their deliberate disregard for the image of a game we all hold dear.

All along, their parents and peers have done little to stop, rather, seem to encourage their displays of juvenile delinquency and foreign nationalistic protestations — sounds and attitudes so far removed from the relative tranquility and safety of Australia.

Can Soccer Australia not see the great irony that in repeatedly appeasing the ungrateful and inconsiderate minority that Sydney United represent, they are turning their backs and blocking their ears to the hopes and desires of the vast majority of the community they (Soccer Australia) purport to represent.

We had had enough. But enough was long ago!

Does our national body stand with the future of the game or its past?

Supporters in their thousands have demonstrated this last season that there is an alternative. Thousands more in Adelaide, Auckland and other parts of Sydney await a sign that they can join a league of promise and popularity, not one of insularity, division

and dwindling crowds.

The big money is waiting and watching too — why would anyone want to pour money into a league that perpetuates foreign hostilities and hatreds and where children cry in terror at the explosions around them and lovers of the game stay away, as they fear for their safety?

In failing to take the ultimate and responsible action of removing Sydney Utd from the Ericsson Cup, Soccer Australia — our national body — has shown it condones such behaviour and is indirectly responsible for its occurrence and perpetuation.

Now, there can be no excuse. Sydney United no longer deserves a place amongst the football elite.

By its presence Sydney United is blocking the entrance of other Sydney teams that would attract far greater crowd support and be a positive adornment to our game.

Soccer Australia, who will you support? The overwhelming majority of fans who have the future of our game at heart, or will you turn your back on the hope, peace and prosperity to once more appease those with a chequered past and future?

Please Soccer Australia. We, the majority, who have only love and best wishes in our hearts for our game and all its genuine supporters, beg you to act!

Chris Kunz
Higgins ACT

WIN GREAT CD SOUNDTRACKS

A current movie is the new Australian offering called *Fresh Air*, a flick based on three people sharing a house in suburban Marrickville (home of Soccer Weekly). It also has a fair bit of football in it too.

The makers of this fine new movie (The Movie Show gave it a thumbs up and it's in the top three most popular movies in Australia in its first week) have given us some great prizes. Just answer this question and the first three correct envelopes pulled out of the barrel (our resident barrel girl) will win the movie's CD soundtrack. WE PULL THE PRIZES ON JUNE 7, SO HURRY.

There are also consolation prizes of tickets to the movie at the Dendy in Newtown (Sydney), copies of the movie's fanzine and free tickets to ride public transport for a day in Sydney (so you can see a soccer game or the movie, or both!).

So answer this question and send to Soccer Weekly, Fresh Air Competition, 7 Garners Ave, Marrickville, 2204.

THE QUESTION IS ... THE MOVIE FRESH AIR IS SET IN SYDNEY'S MARRICKVILLE. WHICH NSW SUPER LEAGUE SIDE PLAYS IN THIS SUBURB?

Australian News

ALL CHANGE ON STANGE'S GLORY TRAIN PARALYMPIC TEAM ON THE BALL

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory's dynamic midfielder Michael Garcia has turned down an offer of re-signing with Perth Glory, just one week after the side was defeated by Sydney United in the Preliminary Final of the Ericsson Cup play-offs.

"Naturally, we are disappointed" said Glory General Manager Roger Lefort. "We wanted Michael to extend his contract, but we couldn't come to a mutual agreement over the terms" he said.

Garcia, who is of Spanish descent, is keeping his movements close to his chest, although it is widely known he was to have trialled with Spanish side Real Madrid 'B' two years ago had Glory not snapped him up while he was getting over a knee injury. Michael moved into the Olympic training camp last weekend to prepare for a game against Paraguay in South America followed by a brief tour of New Zealand. He is due to marry his fiancée Tanya Chillino on June 13.

The Glory office was busy last week deciding on which players they want to retain and those to release. New Zealand international defender Gavin Wilkinson,



Michael Garcia ... has turned down Glory.

who has been released and likely to be signed by new Ericsson Cup side Auckland Kings, will play two games for Inglewood Falcons to keep match fit in readiness for up and coming international duty.

Wilkinson's Kiwi team-mate 24-year old Danny Hay is jetting out to trial with German club VfB Stuttgart and



Paul Strudwick ... announced his retirement.

Italian defender Gianfranco Circati has not been retained and has since returned to Italy. Furthermore, big Craig Deans has signed for Carlton.

Tony Carbone is still to have his contract renewed, Paul Strudwick has confirmed his retirement and Vasko Trpceviski has since returned to Melbourne.

So far, Brisbane Strikers' Kasey Wehrman is only player known to be close to signing for Glory although coach Bernd Stange has shown an interest in a number of eastern states players.

Meanwhile, certain players will play in the local Premier League before the obligatory six week rest on June 27; Troy Halpin with Stirling Lions and John Carbone with Bayswater Panthers.

Michael Garcia's brother Richard, who has just finished a sparkling season at English club West Ham United with the Youth side, has been subject of speculation about him choosing to play for Spain, since it is believed he has received no call from Soccer Australia on his progress and subsequently any chance of joining Michael in the Olympic squad.

By Craig Wilson

Putting together a programme for this soccer squad is much the same as any other squad," says Ross Boyd, High Performance Manager for the Paralympic Preparation Programme Soccer Squad. I am at Narabeen, home of the NSW Sports Academy, and the players are being put through an intensive weekend of tests, training, and lectures.

Included in the programme are fitness and ball work, nutritional advice, speed training, and tactics presentations.

The squad is made up of players selected from the last training day in March. Trialists are also invited to attend. "They are invited along if we get good reports," says Boyd. "There are nomination forms; and we need to know about their soccer experience. We have contacts in each state, and we'll get video footage to assess their abilities. We need them to be of a certain standard before we invite them along, but we are very encouraging because we want to spread the word about the sport."

The majority of the squad are between 18 and 20, and either at school or in higher education. Having spent a rigorous morning on the fitness testing track, Boyd and Team Manager Corny Van Eldik have asked the players to get into the habit of recording their daily activities.

"We want to know how much they are doing at the moment. Like elite athletes we want them to keep a diary of what they are doing every week. Muscle soreness, anxiety, sleep, the result of games they play. What ever they do; whether it be swimming, stretching, conditioning; they need to get used to keeping a record of it. What we'll do next is individualize the programme. One player might need a lot more fitness, another might need to work on their ball skills."

A dietary specialist also worked with the footballers over the weekend. As Boyd tells me, this is a

crucial factor. "Pre-match meals are very important. Heavy carbo the night before, light carbo one or two hours before the game. And the half hour after the game is also critical."

"The Paralympic soccer tournament is going to be played from ten in the morning 'til four in the afternoon. It's going to be hot, and Homebush is a hot sunny area. The fluid loss from the game is huge, so they have to replace that. They'll need to get used to drinking four litres a day."

While smaller countries like the Netherlands have established Cerebral Palsy leagues, the vast distances in Australia mean that most CP players play in able bodied competitions, and much of the challenge for coaches Russell Marriot and David Campbell is to

weld a disparate group of individuals into a team capable of winning a medal. It seems to be working well, and a motivational talk by Paralympic swimming gold medallist Priya Cooper was a part of the evening programme for the squad.

Former Carlton stars Vince Grella of Empoli and Andy Vlahos of Panathinaikos return to Melbourne at the end of this week.

Both players will be attending the Carlton End of Season Celebration at the Grand Hyatt on Friday 4 June 1999.

The official opening of the new home ground of Eastern Suburbs Soccer will be on Saturday, 5th June '99. The address is: Hensley Field, Corner - Wentworth Ave., and Denison St., Eastgardens (formally known as Hillsdale), featuring Eastern Suburbs Wanderers -v- Sydney United.

The Mayor, Mr. Ron Hoenig of the City of Botany Bay will kick off the U/13 Super Youth League match at 10.30am, followed by the U/14's, U/15's and U/16's. The Eastern Suburbs Wanderers are proudly supported by the Eastern Suburbs Soccer Football Association Inc, and the City of Botany Bay community.

BABY MATILDAS GROWING UP FAST

For 17 year old Kelly Golebiowski and Jo Peters, 20, the Women's World Cup is the biggest event in their lives, the culmination of hard work that has dominated their young lives.

While other teenagers have been doing, well, teenage things, these two stars of the future have been in training for this day.

"We have all worked for this very hard. It's really exciting and I am getting nervous now. I think playing overseas puts less pressure on us because at home there is always pressure," said Peters.

"Overseas I still think that they don't know that much about us, and with the full-time preparation although we may be seen as underdogs, we are fully prepared and very professional," she added minutes before the Matildas jetted off from Sydney airport to LA yesterday. The Matildas will be in the US and Canada in the lead-up to their first World Cup group match, against Ghana, on June 20 in Boston. They have four games prior to the tournament.

"I've been three times to the US, as have most of the girls, so that is an advantage. And the fans I am sure will be special."

As for Ghana, there is little that Peters knows about them, although the thorough Matildas coaching staff will be tracking them on video.



Kelly Golebiowski ... she said she would play in a World Cup, and she has!

"I've hit form which is timely, and hopefully I can make the starting eleven. I want that!"

17 year old Kelly Golebiowski looks like a babe in the woods at the press conference before the squad left, but her selection is the culmination of an obsessive dream she has had since she was a child.

"I still has not hit me. I guess when we get there I will really believe it."

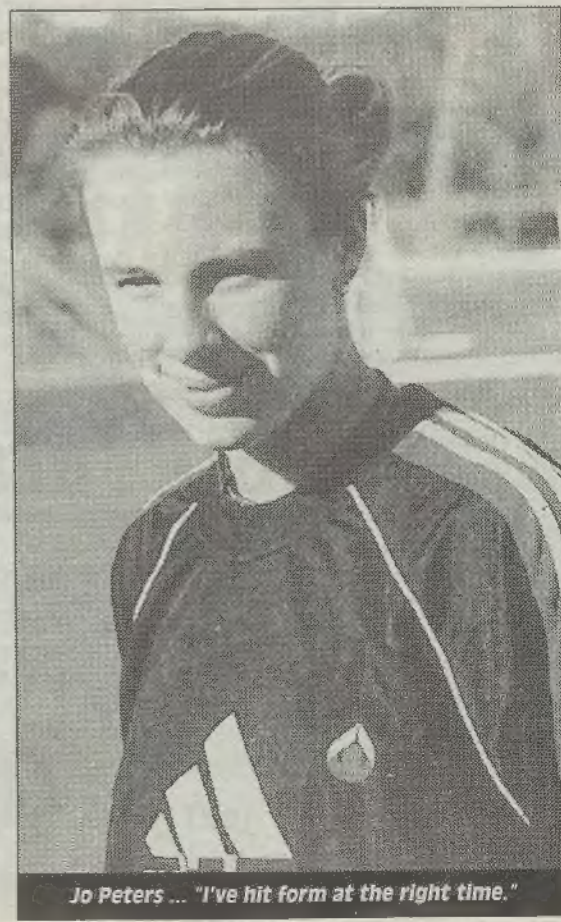
Still, it's not the usual teenage life.

"I suppose I have missed out on a usual life, but this is what I want. Mind you, I still go on the bus to school like everyone else."

"She was interviewed on ABC radio five years ago and she said as clear as day 'I want to go to the World Cup'. I am proud of her as a person and as a player," said an excited Mum, Mrs Golebiowski.

With the Sydney Olympics coming up, and the next World Cup in 2003 (it could be in Australia), the future is looking bright for these two young Matildas.

"Golebiowski's younger sister Leanne says the Matildas will win the World Cup! You read it first here."



Jo Peters ... "I've hit form at the right time."

Australian Features

BARCELONA OR BUST!

Every so often in football comes a high stakes encounter which produces a display of such incident, high drama and vastly contrasting emotions that it epitomises the rare and incredible impact of the beautiful game.

Last Wednesday night, in Barcelona's cavernous and heaving Nou Camp Stadium, the UEFA Champions League final between Manchester United and Bayern Munich provided such an occasion.

Two late plundered goals finally enabled Alex Ferguson to secure the holy grail to which he has aspired since first winning the English premiership trophy in 1993.

The match itself hardly lived up to expectations, certainly from a United viewpoint. For 90 minutes, the evening seemed to be going badly wrong. They conceded early, passes went astray and their attacks were broken down as the Bayern midfield maintained control.

Just 24 hours before, at the pre-match press conference, Ferguson had expressed confidence in his side, despite the absence of their inspirational captain.

"Of course we will miss Roy Keane's influence," he said, "but the team has spirit, belief, and a number of goalscorers".

Despite the manager's faith however, United appeared disjointed for most of the

night. The tactical reorganization by Ferguson failed to ignite his side.

Jesper Blomqvist struggled on the left and Ryan Giggs, forced onto the right wing, failed to provide penetration despite having the better of Bayern's left-sided defenders.

Bayern, in turn, performed with characteristic efficiency, neutralising David Beckham and Nicky Butt in the centre of the park as they comfortably defended their lead for long periods, albeit showing little in the way of ambition.

The United support remained vocal throughout however, regularly calling on their 'stand up for the champions' chant as they attempted to raise the spirits of their heroes.

The Red Devils are a resilient side, having come back several times this season when seemingly buried, notably in the FA Cup fourth round against Liverpool, when they came from a goal down after 88 minutes to win the match without the need for extra time or a replay.

Who says history does not repeat itself?

Enter Teddy Sheringham, three months ago seemingly the forgotten man at Old Trafford, but with hindsight the undisputed catalyst for United's league and FA Cup triumphs, and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, the talismanic super-sub who seems able to score at will under pressure.

The goals by the two backup strikers have etched their names indelibly into Manchester United folklore.

The scenes of euphoria among the United faithful after the match were unparalleled. The celebration saw an unabated wall of noise generated by their ecstatic travelling support.

The players duly engaged in banter as they paraded the trophy. Each in turn individually raised it in a tribute to their magnificent and loyal followers, who savoured the victory, revelling in the glory they had patiently awaited for 31 years.

This was the final step to greatness, the achievement that places this team among the all-time great club sides of England and exorcises the ghosts of recent failures.

The fact that United managed to reproduce this finish at the highest level in itself speaks volumes for their fighting spirit and attitude. This was not a comeback so much as an escape act of epic proportions.

In contrast to the exhilaration of the United fans, the Bayern half of the stadium showed the other side of the equation. Shell-shocked, desolate supporters and players, struggling to come to terms with the most dramatic turnaround ever in a European Cup final.

As the red and white army retired to a night of celebration on the streets of the

Catalan capital, a delighted Ferguson justified the victory to the waiting media.

"You can't deny people with spirit and the will to win. We were the team who tried to win it. In a game of football, if you risk, you deserve to win. We rode our luck in the last 15 minutes, but we had to take risks to get back in the match. Sheringham and Solskjaer are goalscorers," he said.

Ferguson expressed little surprise at the tactics employed by Bayern after securing the lead.

"It was my fear that we would lose the early goal. Bayern tried to do what they did against Dynamo Kiev, and shut up the game. They have the mental strength to do it. But it is a dangerous game to play."

"I knew we had better mental strength than Kiev. We were the team who tried to express ourselves and win it," he said.

Mental strength indeed, allied to a never-say-die attitude, and once their more attacking formation found its feet, the urgency of the English champions forced the German side onto the back foot in the dying minutes.

United simply would not be denied this treble — it seemed to be their destiny. They saw off the best that England could offer in league and cup, including a superb Arsenal side who had no European diversion.

In Europe, they encountered the traditional Spanish, Italian and German heavyweights, but never faltered, remaining unbeaten throughout.

United's victory has been a triumph for positive, attacking soccer.

Throughout their European campaign they have scored at will. They have conceded too, but always came forward in search of victory.

There is a looming spectre here though, of which United will be well aware.

In 1968, after their last European cup triumph, United went into decline and endured a long barren spell.

Regular managerial changes saw them fail to win another European trophy until 1991 and they had to wait a further two years before winning the league again.

So where to now for United and Ferguson? How does he motivate his talented and decorated young brigade, most of whom have yet to reach the peak of their game, to surpass such an achievement?

"You cannot top this," said Ferguson, "because this is the pinnacle. But you can equal it. They players will go on, I want them to go on."

Ominous words indeed, especially considering that players like Beckham, Scholes, Butt and the Neville brothers are not yet 25 years of age.

United will know that they cannot afford to relax. They now have many additional matches next season, and Ferguson will not sit back as Arsenal and Chelsea strengthen their squads.

In addition, we wait with baited breath to view the latest young talent off the much vaunted Old Trafford production line.

Football is nothing if not unpredictable, but Ferguson and his all-conquering band of heroes will stride confidently into next season. It will be a confidence borne out of a sheer will to win and refusal to accept defeat under any circumstances, and, of course, out of being European champions.

"Daryl Katz compiles and writes SW's UK Premier coverage. He spent a week travelling to and being in Barcelona for this historic game. We would like to thank UEFA for their cooperation."

WIN WORLD CLASS JUNIOR COACHING VIDEOS

By Craig Wilson

Soccer is the most popular and fastest growing sport in Australia, and 'Soccer Magic', a new coaching video by 'the Pied Piper of Australian Soccer', Dusan Purac, is a fantastic introduction to the skills required to make a success of the sport and will appeal to both newcomers and experienced players looking to improve their touch on the ball.

When Purac arrived in Australia after a

professional career in Yugoslavia, he quickly became disillusioned with ability levels in his new country. Purac believes that soccer should be 'about entertainment first and results second', and set up the Brazil Soccer School to teach young players the tricks and drills that make South American soccer so attractive.

The video takes a thorough approach — starting with warm-ups and stretching, then moving through one-touch exercises, dribbling and passing.

Purac believes in working on balance

through constant practice, thereby building confidence on the ball. Weaknesses in play are improved through repetition; 'A player who can only use one foot is only half a player', he says.

The bottom line for Purac is control of the ball. "When you control the ball you control the game," he says, and through building a solid groundwork of basic skills, Purac gives players the armory to be able to express their individuality. He doesn't skimp on the spectacular either — taking young players through the tricks of 'overhead kicks and flying headers. "Football should always be about fun," he reasons.

In the second part of the video, Purac revisits Yugoslavia, 'the Brazil of the Balkans', and tracks down Zvonimir Boban and Dejan Savicevic at Dinamo Zagreb, joining them for a skills session.

Though this does rather date the video (Dinamo are now Croatia Zagreb, and part of that country), the lessons in soccer are plain.

In an international language, the skills that Purac imparts to his players can only improve their fluency and comprehension, and develop a new generation of Australian players to take on the world.

Read next week for details of how you can win copies of this video.

SOCCER MAGIC

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Australian Features

LEE STERREY: BRINGING CREDIBILITY BACK TO NEWCASTLE

The first season, a big thrill for you and Newcastle Breakers?

It was a great thrill, considering how the club was when I arrived and how we ended up. We effectively had only two weeks pre-season because I was searching for players, which of course makes it difficult. I had 13 players two weeks before the season.

How frustrating was that?

Very frustrating. When I arrived in town we only had nine players for both squads. Two were young kids for the youth team, so really I only had seven players when I arrived. I probably acquired 10 or 11 player for 150,000. To finish eighth was a credit to the blokes, whom I cannot speak highly enough of. We achieved our task this year of taking Newcastle from being a cellar dweller to a club with more respect.

You were more organised this year, was it something you specifically worked on?

Yes, in the past we were conceding 40 to 50 goals a year. We had to tighten up, we went to a back four as opposed to a back three. I also made sure that everyone knew what their defensive duties were. Some of the so-called gurus of the game called us a defensive side, but when your new striker, Andrew Borghetto, gets injured in game one, then we lost Chris Tanchevski, then your strikeforce is basically Buonavoglia and Buonavoglia! You then you tailor your tactics accordingly. We tried to set a counter-attacking system and it was amazing how many teams fell into the trap. It wasn't that we were mega-defensive, I mean, you take Awaritefe and Babic out of Marconi and you would have the same approach.

Where to for next season?

I have the highest respect for the boys in my squad, but we have to change the product mix around a little. We need to inject some ball handlers and really high calibre skill players.

Buonavoglia, how integral has he been?

His missed a fair few chances, but he was creating them, and of course scoring. There was also Bobby Catlin, at 33 he was given a golden handshake but I knew he could do a job for me. Shane Pryce, well he had an excellent season. These were my lynchpins, with one in goal, one in defence and one upfront.

Any game stick in the memory as being something special?

The Glory game at home. Greg Owens scored those two bombs and even Stange would have admitted that on that night we murdered them, it could have been six or seven goals to us. That game turned our fortunes around.

Can money buy you success?

Look I think a lot of the players are going round on their names and some players are receiving very big salaries.

Is that a good thing?

No, it's bad because not a lot of clubs can survive when the stakes are raised so high, like how Perth have done it. Some Aussie players I believe have overpriced their tags. Look Aidan, for the money, I'd rather have three visa players for the money some of the guys in Australia are charging. The figure that has been bandied about with Mile Sterjovski is an example. He is a great player but the money being asked is very big. Look at Brett Emerton. His performances on the field this last 18 months have been nothing flash, yet he has been reportedly on a massive salary. I don't blame Emo, I blame the clubs. They are going to bleed the clubs dry if we don't be careful.

What does the club need to do from here on in?

Newcastle needs to stabilise from what we have reached this year. We want to make the finals, but if we don't go below eighth then I will still be able to sleep well because we will have lost that tag of cellar dweller.

We are trying to lift the image of the club, and we have earned the respect of the local communi-



Lee Sterrey... has changed perceptions that Newcastle are perennial bottom three side.

ty. They have gone overboard in support for us, and we will get sponsorship out of it, but you can't go from the cellar to the penthouse in one step. All credit goes to the coaching staff (David Lowe and Bobby Naumov). If we stabilise and look for the finals it will be good for the club, which has such a potential.

Credit goes to Bill Collins and the board, who have put in the hard work, because two years ago we looked not too flash. They are now talking about marketing the club, which will fulfill the enormous potential of the club.

Did you enjoy the year and what did you learn?

I am not a standover man, so I enjoyed it with my players. I learnt plenty, if you stop learning then that is not a good thing. I will be at the AIS this weekend for the high performance certificate. Also under Matic at Marconi and the Viareggio Youth tournament, I learnt so much.

Any thoughts on Alex Ferguson's Man Utd success?

Well he has the funds so they have depth. I know Jimmy Ryan, Ferguson's assistant, and I have a good relationship with him. Jimmy has invited me to Manchester, as have clubs in Italy. I would like to do it, and I encourage every coach to do. You have to keep learning.



Newcastle Breakers 1998/99

HARNWELL: SORRENTO'S SURPRISE STAR

By Aidan Ormond

The advent of Ericsson Cup full-time professionalism has given hope to youngsters all over the country, particularly when the club is as big as Perth Glory. And in the context of keeping players in Australia, this is surely a positive.

Huge crowds, quality coaching and big name overseas and local players makes it increasingly viable for players to stay here longer, and to play in a genuinely big club such as the dynamic Glory.

One such player living out this dream is Glory defender Jamie Harnwell. Plucked at the beginning of the season from the relative obscurity of state league side Sorrento, the 21 year old defender has had a season that, in his own words, "has been like a dream". He ended up playing in 23 league and finals games for the Glory.

This "dream" culminated in the sort of fantasy every kid has, scoring in the finals in front of a huge crowd at home to help his team win through. And, it was his first ever goal in the NSL!

That game was the second leg of the elimination final against Adelaide City in front of 25,000 at the WACA.

"I stepped out in my first game," he explains, "in

front of nearly 15,000. It was just amazing. Then to have crowds of 25-28,000 at the WACA, well it's just indescribable.

"I had to watch the tape again, it was the biggest buzz in my life, because I forgot what I did after I scored the goal."

However, going from leisurely part time football in state league to full-time training was not without its difficulties.

"Initially it was difficult adjusting to a full-time training schedule, it was intense, plus things like diet, which you have to incorporate in to your lifestyle. Also, you have a bit of spare time which took some time to get used to, and of course you have to spend a lot of time training," he says.

"I think we could have done better this season, if we had a less threadbare squad. When we had injuries we had little cover, but I think once we signed the players we did, the overall strength of the team improved and look, we lost one in 13 in the final stages of the league."

Bernie Stange is brilliant and I can't say enough about him. However, his training is very hard, sure he likes a joke, but it is very intense most of the time.

He plucked me from obscurity so I cannot say enough good things about him."

His new found status as a soccer star in Perth is all new to the polite and well-spoken defender.

"Yeah, every now and then someone recognises me and it's very flattering. I will talk to anyone who wants to discuss soccer. Signing autographs is something I never thought I'd be doing. It's such a great feeling when you sign an autographed poster for a kid and they look so happy."

"On the park I have learnt different things from the other defenders. When I started maybe I was a little naive. Gianfranco (Circati) is a nonsense defender while Danny (Hay) is a different kind of player, he likes to

knock the ball around. All the defenders at Glory exhibit a sort of power and strength on the ball.

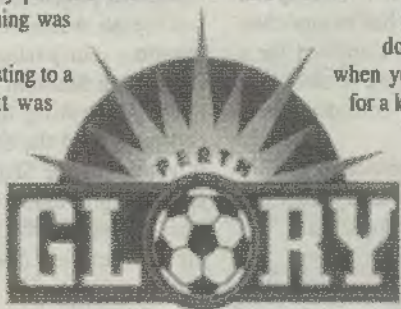
"Each morning I pinch myself and ask myself, 'is this really happening to me?' When I was getting the bus in to the WACA for the big finals game, you think 'hang on I am playing in this game'!"

To cap off a memorable year, Harnwell has been picked in the Australian University side for the Summer Games World Cup in Mallorca in July (see

squad on page two). The squad also features his brother and a sprinkling of NSL experienced players.

"It was a case of nomination because we live in Perth there was no possibility of trials, so you send off the info and the coach decides after seeing you play and talking to coaches. The host nation is Spain, and they are in our group. I am looking forward to the challenge, like I am for next season with the Glory, where hopefully we can go one step further and make the top two and win the Grand Final."

It's been a heck of a year for this previously unknown defender from Perth. And he's a Manchester United supporter! Doesn't get better than that!



Jamie Harnwell ...

Pastimes: Nintendo 64, Golf,
Reading and Surfing
Girlfriend?: Karen
Player: David Beckham

Australian Features

ADELAIDE UNITED:

AT LAST A REAL SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCCER TEAM?

DC: Peter, what was the attraction about the game that got you involved?

PE: Well first of all I'm a lover of high quality sports of all kinds. I'm closely associated with basketball here for example, I'm an Aussie Rules supporter from way back. We have a tremendous game here played at a high level in the NSL, and I've been a spectator at both City games and Sharks games for a long while, and I think the product that we have here is good, but it's silly that it's not being enjoyed by a larger number of people.

DC: The question everyone is asking: What is the connection between Adelaide United and West Adelaide? Is there a connection?

PE: There is no connection. None whatsoever. The Hellenic Club went bankrupt. That club is now being administered by an administrator Mr Mulvaney, and we did talk to some people in the Sharks' hierarchy about the possibility of helping that club out of administration, or avoiding liquidation so the club continued to exist.

We would get some of the assets, which that club holds which are relevant to the NSL, for example players and the rights they have to the use of Hindmarsh Stadium and several other things, and we thought that would be a good thing.

We did in fact have some very constructive discussions with some of the people at the Hellenic Club about that, and a joint proposal

This is the exclusive interview with Adelaide United driving force Peter Emery, together with 88.5 Coast FM 'Talking Soccer' panel ex-FIFA referee Donald Campbell, ex-Australian international Eric Norman, and women's soccer promoter Margaret Bowden.

was put to a meeting of creditors a couple of weeks ago now, and it was approved by the creditors under which some friends of West Adelaide, obviously some members of the Greek Community, and ourselves, would put some money into the hands of the administrator to go to creditors.

The Hellenic Club would be saved from liquidation and we would have some of those assets, for example, a group of players to kick off a squad for the NSL. That proposal was approved by the creditors and then went to a meeting of 'The Friends of West Adelaide' and it wasn't approved, so the thing is back in the hands of the administrator and it will have to go back in the hands of the creditors, but there was never any idea that we would be taking over the Sharks or become the Sharks, or the Sharks would become us.

That was never the idea. We've set up a brand new club, a brand new structure. There could well have been some connection with West Adelaide in the same way as we'd hope to have connections with all the other local State and Premier League clubs. It was NEVER part of our intention to take over the Sharks or become the Sharks with a new name.

DC: I believe the Sharks still have a license. Would the NSL have to take that away from them to give it to you?

PE: Well it's almost a legal issue there as to whether they have a license or not. The licenses are annually renewable, and exactly what the position is between the NSL and the Sharks I don't know. Bear in mind again that they are currently in the hands of an administrator.

They're not running a club themselves at the moment, so it's unclear to me in a technical sense whether the Sharks have a license right now or not, but in any case, our position is that we've applied for a license from the NSL and we're obviously asking Soccer Australia to consider it.

DC: Soccer Australia obviously require criteria. Do you fit the criteria which has been put to you by Soccer Australia?

PE: We fit all of the criteria, probably in many of cases better than a lot of the existing NSL clubs.

DC: When will Soccer Australia give you an answer — yes you're in, or no you're not?

PE: We hope within the next couple of weeks. They have a meeting at the end of this month and we hope this matter will be

considered then.

DC: Would Adelaide United have any direct ties with any European sides, possibly Manchester United? You mentioned Neil McGachey. He was over there a year or two ago, and he's obviously established ties with Martin Edwards and Alex Ferguson.

PE: Well we do like the idea of having an alliance with a major international club, and we have been investigating that, and we have been in Europe talking to some of the major clubs, but we're not in a position to announce anything on that. We hope to be very soon, within the next couple of weeks.

DC: Have you approached any high profile coaches or players? I know Aurelio Vidmar's name has been mentioned. No truth in that at this stage?

"We've got a huge base of soccer in this state in terms of all of the levels — from juniors, women's teams and the rest of it, right up to the Premier League — and a lot of parents and children support the game in one way or another, and I don't think it's all that hard to translate that into a good crowd of people at Hindmarsh Stadium".

PE: Well, in general we have been contacted by quite a few current or prospective coaches and players, mainly contacts from their side rather than ours.

We have talked to one or two potential coaches in particular... There are a number of things that have to come together before we can finalise an Adelaide United concept for next season. ...In particular we need access to Hindmarsh Stadium on acceptable terms, and that's something that involved the Soccer Federation and the State Government, because as you know the State Government funded the major improvements down there, so I don't want to give you the idea that we've jumped all the hurdles yet. There are still some more hurdles to jump.

DC: What would be a realistic attendance at the games?

PE: I would be surprised if we can't get 10,000 and more right from the beginning of this new club. With the new facilities and with the breadth of the support that we're trying to attract, why shouldn't that be possible? We've got a huge base of soccer in this state in terms

of all of the levels — from juniors, women's teams and the rest of it, right up to the Premier League — and a lot of parents and children support the game in one way or another, and I don't think it's all that hard to translate that into a good crowd of people at Hindmarsh Stadium.

We've seen what's happened in Perth and we've seen what's happened at North Sydney Oval... Why do we have such huge crowds at the Crows, and why do we fill up most nights the basketball stadium? Obviously they're not grounded in one particular ethnic community or another, they appeal to all South Australians who love sport, and we can do the same with soccer surely.

EN: What colours are you going to play in?

PE: We envisage that for home games we'd have some version of the State colours (blue, gold and red). I mean obviously there's variations on that and away strips might be different.

EN: Would you be using Rams Park as a venue for training facilities, because it's vacant and it's a beautiful set-up.

PE: We're talking to the Government about that. That site is owned by the Government still, by the Health Commission, and it was developed with quite a large amount of money

by News Ltd when they owned the Rams.

We are definitely looking at that and talking to the Government and News Ltd about it. It is a fantastic facility.

DC: Would the local leagues be feeders to yourselves?

PE: Sure, and we've been talking to the Federation about formalising the relationships there between the local clubs and Adelaide United.

DC: Finally Peter, how much is your projected budget for one or even five years in the NSL?

PE: We've done detailed financial plans which add up to around \$3 million a year. We believe we can run a successful NSL club. One of the things is that there's a huge number of people volunteering their services to us, even before we make formal announcements.

DC: Thank you Peter.

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Australian Features



Welcome, we are the Four Diegos. This week Our guest is one of the happiest Soccer club chairman in world game at present. His team, Perth Glory qualified for the Ericsson Cup finals for the first time, in the process, setting new NSL crowd records with an estimated 30,000 Sandgropers packing out a throbbing WACA Stadium in Perth, on two occasions during the playoffs. Please a big Four Diegos welcome to the chairman of the marauding Perth Glory ... Nick Tana.



Diegos: "Congratulations on a fine season and a great finals run. It could have been a different story though, had it not been for a Bobby Despotovski header at the death against the wily, Adelaide City to give you the win in the Elimination final second leg."

"When Bobby got the winner, what was your reaction? Did you kiss your wife, kiss the super-box waitress or kiss Bobby?"

Tana: "No, the first reaction was absolute exhilaration — from memory we all jumped up."

"Thankfully, I don't think that much kissing was going on."

Diegos: "To us Victorians it seems that the Glory this season has been able to capture the

Diegos: "As the Diegos surfed the 'Financial Review' a couple of weeks ago, checking out the share price of our blue chip Mexican coffee bean stock, we noticed an article about the Glory and their proposed purpose built \$40 million soccer stadium. Have the events during the finals forced the WA government to move more quickly on the

Tana: "Let's please put it in the right perspective guys. The finals are under Soccer Australia's control. There is a written law that says the team that finish above another has choice in the finals to determine were games will be played."

"We looked at the possibility for the benefit of the game and what we were trying to create. At the end of the day, if Sydney United go to Parramatta stadium, for argument sake or South Melbourne at Olympic Park, they still haven't got home ground advantage like we haven't got home ground advantage. By playing at the WACA we have shifted from were we have played all year."

crying out for a little of what Perth Glory is having. From afar do you think that Melbourne and Adelaide can replicate what Glory and Northern Spirit have done for the game in their states?"

Tana: "We've got a real special recipe, just like KFC — it's a secret recipe, do you expect me to give you that? There are two fundamental words that can put clubs on the path to success in Australia, 'Neutrality and Broad base'. I've already laid it out to a lot of the clubs over in the eastern states."

"In other words, irrespective of what nationality you are, you should feel comfortable at that particular club."



Glory and their fantastic fans at Perth Oval.

imagination of every feral, two-headed Sandgroper in your fine state. The Elimination final crowd was something never before seen at NSL level in this country. Has the hype and support surpassed your expectations and how much bigger can this get?"

Tana: "I'm the first one to admit that it has gone further than what we expected it to. However, let me say, to understand what has been occurring one needs to understand what we have done as opposed to what other national league clubs have been doing for the last five to seven years. The concept of what we have achieved over here in Perth is not rocket science, it is very simple, unique and never done before in this country. The proof is in the pudding, the turnstiles are clicking."

proposal?"

Tana: "Firstly Diegos, let me make something quite clear, your investment will be most welcome. One would have to say categorically that the events that have unfolded over the finals have jolted parliamentarians and all sporting fraternities. We have got a sleeping giant in Australia that we have succeeded in waking up. Now what has to happen is that the rest of Australia has to catch on to the bandwagon. The government over here obviously has an agenda. They have announced that the stadium will be constructed but it will be at their time."

Diegos: "Is it true that you approached Sydney United, offering to play the grand final in Perth if they and the Glory qualified? If you did and remembering this is a family newspaper, what was their response?"

Diegos: "Not only does success breed success, but in sport it also breeds the undesirables."

"Apparently there was such a great demand for Glory tickets to the elimination final that, for the first time in Aussie domestic soccer, it flushed out a brigade of opportunistic, lowlife, trench coat wearing scalpers selling tickets at exorbitant prices. Are you flattered by the scalpers wanting to do business or is it an unexpected blight on the game?"

Tana: "Firstly let me acknowledge that it is a sign of success. On the same token we are disgusted that people are profiteering from other people's passions. Let me also say that we are going to move very quickly to insure that this doesn't repeat itself."

"It is my understanding that scalping is illegal in other states, whereas in Perth it is legal. What we want to do is to lobby the government to legislate that tickets can not be sold above face value. We are going to be pushing that for next season."

Diegos: "In a scene reminiscent to the faking orgasm restaurant clip in 'When Harry Met Sally', we in Melbourne are

Diegos: "You are known as a straight shooter, saying things as you see them. Therefore you are a perfect candidate for the Four Diegos 'Heart Balm' where we ask you to give us your brief heart felt response to the following topics'."

The Four Diegos' are radio celebrities and soccer scribes on Melbourne's Stereo 97.4FM. Saturday 10am-12midday.

E-Mail 'The Diegos' on FourDiegos@bigpond.com.

Pamela Anderson's breast implants?"

Tana: "Fantastic!"

Diegos: "Boris Yeltsin endorsing Chicken Treat Chicken?"

Tana: "Couldn't go wrong!"

Diegos: "Perth Glory Ericsson Cup Grand Final winners in 2000?"

Tana: "A beautiful dream!"

Diegos: "The Four Diegos?"

Tana: "Just like Pamela Anderson's breast implants — fantastic!"

Diegos: "Thanks Nick. You've obviously got good taste in breast implants and radio shows. Adios Amigo!"

Tana: "Thanks Diegos. Glory by name, Glory by nature. Adios Amigos!"

SOCCER WOMAN

WITH JANENE MAR IN CANBERRA

AUSTRALIA DEPARTS FOR THE WORLD CUP

The World Cup Matildas departed from the AIS Canberra before dawn yesterday (Mon) bound for the USA to commence preparations for the 3rd FIFA Women's World Cup.

Upon landing in Sydney, the team squeezed in a World Cup Farewell Breakfast and Press Conference at the Hilton Sydney Airport, before boarding their international flight to Portland, Oregon.

Australia's final preparations consist of four warm-up matches — USA and Brazil in Portland, and two games against Canada in Toronto.

The games will get the side back into international matchplay mode against tough opposition in readiness for the World Cup itself. As well as being an opportunity for finetuning, the players will be jostling for positions in the starting eleven.

Portland will also provide the crowds and feverish atmosphere approaching that expected for the World Cup, with an audience of 22,000 turning out to the Nike Campus for the Canada versus Brazil and USA versus Australia doubleheader. The experience of playing before a large, vocal crowd will be of immense value, especially to the less experienced members of the team.

World Cup hosts and Olympic gold medallists USA

will present the toughest of opening challenges for the Matildas, but it will be an important gauge of the Aussies' improvement and maturity, state of readiness and focus. And a clash against the Americans is always an occasion to savour.

Likewise, Brazil and Canada will test the Matildas' ability to adjust to differing styles and situations.

For the USA, these matches in Portland bring to a conclusion their extensive pre-World Cup exhibition tour across the country. Their World Cup twenty selected a fortnight ago includes no surprises, a formidable unit with phenomenal major event experience and success.

Six US players are about to contest their third World Cup, members of the 1991 team which won the inaugural World Cup held in China.

Six have won selection for their second World Cup, with eight making the World Cup Team for the first time. Team USA also includes 13 of the 16

1996 Olympic gold medallists.

There are eight players who have 115 or more caps to their name, with an average of 87 caps per player. This makes their average caps twenty greater than our highest-capped player (Anissa Tann-Darby on 67).



MATCH SCHEDULE - PORTLAND

03 Jun	Canada v Brazil	12.30pm	Nike Campus,
	USA v Australia	3.00pm	
06 Jun	USA v Canada	11.00am	Civic Stadium,
	Brazil v Australia	1.30pm	

World Cup ticket sales continue to boom, with organisers expecting to easily reach the target total of half a million paying spectators.

Over 400,000 tickets have been sold to date across the seven venues 62,000 are to the Opening Ceremony and doubleheader featuring USA v Denmark and Brazil v Mexico at Giants Stadium 32,000 tickets have been snapped up for Australia's clash with China at Giants

AUSTRALIA v USA

Win-Draw-Loss...0-0-11

Date	Location	Result
16/12/87	Taipei City, Chinese Taipei	0-6 Loss
28/01/95	Phoenix, USA	0-5 Loss
23/01/95	Phoenix, USA	1-4 Loss
10/06/95	Helsingborg, Sweden	1-4 Loss
03/08/95	New Brunswick, USA	2-4 Loss
04/Jul/96	Tampa, USA	1-2 Loss
06/Jul/96	Pensacola, USA	1-2 Loss
28/Feb/97	Melbourne	0-4 Loss
02/Mar/97	Bathurst	1-3 Loss
05/Mar/97	Canberra	0-3 Loss
05/Jun/97	Ambler, USA	1-9 Loss

Stadium 22,000 spectators will fill the Nike Campus in Portland for the exhibition match between USA and Australia.

USA World Cup Team

Player	Pos.	Caps
Briana Scurry**	GK	88
Lorrie Fair	D	46
Christie Pearce	D	48
Carla Overbeck***	D	142
Tiffany Roberts**	M	71
Brandi Chastain**	D	92
Sara Whalen	D	32
Shannon MacMillan	F	76
Mia Hamm***	F	171
Michelle Akers***	M	139
Julie Foudy***	M	152
Cindy Parlow	F	53
Kristine Lilly***	M	177
Joy Fawcett***	D	139
Tisha Venturini**	M	121
Tiffeny Milbrett**	F	115
Danielle Fotopoulos	F	21
Saskia Webber**	GK	25
Tracy Ducar	GK	23
Kate Sobrero	D	23

*** Third World Cup

** Second World Cup

SAMBA QUEENS READY TO TAKE CUP BY STORM

Brazil is considered the most improved nation since the 1991 World Cup. After failing to advance past the Group matches at both previous World Cups, the Brazilians surprised everyone in finishing fourth at the Atlanta Olympics, having only narrowly missed a berth in the final.

In the tradition of South American football, Brazil possesses all the skill and flair on the ball, with some lethal finishers.

After assembling 30 players into camp in Sao Paulo, Brazil selected 23 players to undertake the most extensive World Cup preparations within the USA of any team.

Since arriving in America back on 20 May, they have played one international against the US, plus numerous representative or college teams.

Reports indicate that Roseli, one of the world's leading strikers, remains injured and will be unavailable for the World Cup.

In other results:

22 May USA 3 def Brazil 0 in Orlando, USA

Mia Hamm scored her record-breaking 108th international goal.

19 May Sweden 4 def Denmark 0 in Joenkeoping

A big win over the strong Danes. Beware, the Matildas.

15 May Nigeria 2 def Ghana 1 in Nigeria

After the match, the Ghanaian coach stated to the press that Nigeria would not advance past the first round in the World Cup if things don't improve in all areas of playing.

He also accused Nigeria of having no attackers. Mercy Akide snatched Nigeria's two goals, whilst Vivian Mensah scored for Ghana.

16 May USA 3 def Holland 0 in Chicago, USA

Holland played a very defensive formation.

13 May USA 5 def Holland 0 in Milwaukee, USA

US striker Tiffeny Milbrett was on fire, scoring one goal and setting up another three.

12 May Italy 2 drew with Norway 2 in Italy

Italy held a 2-0 lead after just 19 minutes before Norway pulled one back three minutes later. Norwegian veteran Linda Medalen equalised in the 66th.

Australia's World Cup Team

Player	Pos.	Age	Games
Dianne ALAGICH	D	20	5
Traci BARTLETT**	D	27	37
Sharon BLACK	M	28	36
Lisa CASAGRANDE**	M	21	52
Sarah COOPER**	D	29	46
Alicia FERGUSON	F	17	14
Alison FORMAN** (v/c)	M	30	44
Kelly GOLEBIOWSKI	M	17	10
Peita-Claire HEPPELIN	M	17	2
Angela IANNOTTA**	F	28	26
Belinda KITCHING	GK	21	28
Julie MURRAY** (c)	F	29	58
Joanne PETERS	M	20	24
Cheryl SALISBURY**	M	25	44
Bridgette STARR	D	23	35
Kristyn SWAFFER	D	23	23
Anissa TANN-DARBY**	D	31	67
Amy TAYLOR	D	19	14
Tracey WHEELER**	GK	31	33
Amy WILSON	M	18	8

** Second World Cup

Australia v Brazil

Win-Draw-Loss...2-0-1

Date	Location	Result
01/06/88	Jiangmen, China	1-0 Win
15/04/95	Uberlandia, Brazil	0-3 Loss
17/04/95	Uberlandia, Brazil	3-2 Win

AUSTRALIA'S PLAN TO WIN THE OLYMPICS

AWSA High Performance Manager Alan Reis gives us an inside perspective of the World Cup and how it figures in the overall plan leading up to and beyond the 2000 Olympic Games...

The 4-year plan that Greg Brown and I devised upon our commencement with the AWSA in May 1997 is going to plan.

Plans are great if you can put them in place; useless if they sit on the shelf. With minimal alteration, the plan we set has materialised and we are happy with its progress.

It has come out of a lot of hard work and excellent assistance from the Australian Sports Commission and Australian Institute of Sport, and constant support from the AWSA Board and Chief Executive.

A few major cornerstones of our plan are as follows -

1. Centralised National Squad program

This has been achieved in the shape we want.

2. Substantial increase in international matches against quality opposition. From 1997 to the present, 30 internationals have been played, and there are another 31 confirmed before the Olympic Games.

3. Quality Sports Science/Sports Medicine support staff.

We consider we have the best around, and they meet weekly to provide input to the program.

4. Established and supported national pathway for players, coaches and support staff.

Through the excellent co-operation of the State academies and institutes, and the State associations, the ITC program has been a revelation.

The players know the ITC program is a crucial step to the national teams. Coaches can see a future of opportunities, illustrated by the fact that our current two full-time national coaches are former ITC coaches.

Team managers and physios, etc have mostly come through the ITC teams that compete in the Ansett Summer Series.

As we go into the World Cup, Greg Brown and I

are satisfied to say we think the players have received everything we believe was needed, given our budget, to provide them the best chance of performing to their best. At this stage, will their best be good enough? Time will tell.

It is most important to note that our major goal is the Olympic Games. The World Cup is a significant step and indicator of our progress along the way.

The benefits of the centralised program to the players' and team's abilities are becoming apparent.

We have been at the AIS full-time for ten months so far. By the time of the Olympics come around, we will have spent 26 months there.

The most significant benefits are yet to come, regardless of the World Cup.

Our program is set to the year 2000, and that is why we have now moved further into the future in terms of planning towards the 2003 World Cup and 2004 Olympics.

This is evidenced by our work with the 2003 World Cup bid, plus the Nordic Cup and last year's Youth Team tour of Holland, helping to identify players for the coming years.

Australians are in for a smorgasbord of women's football here in our own country. This is equally exciting for the players, the AWSA Board and management, the stakeholders in Australian women's soccer, and the sporting public.

As for the Olympic Games themselves, we're definitely on our way to a medal. What colour, who knows? Win two games in our Olympic group matches and we're playing for at least a bronze.

Win the first crossover game (the semifinal), and it's gold or silver. Simple, isn't it? Our entire plan has been to make the equation as simple as possible for when we kick off our first match in Canberra on 13 September 2000 at Bruce Stadium.

And what about the World Cup? We believe we have progressed enough to show we are in the top four nations in the world. Are we? Again, time will tell...It's a funny old game.

THE GRAND FINAL WRAP INSIDE

GRAND FINAL '99

Sunday May 30, 1999

South Melbourne 3

Sydney United 2

Olympic Park, Melbourne

Congratulations

South Melbourne





ERICSSON CUP GRAND FINAL



THEY'VE DONE IT AGAIN!



SOUTH END CENTURY AS UNDISPUTED NSL KINGS

SOUTH MELBOURNE 3
 Trimboli 52, Anastasiadis 63, 87
SYDNEY UNITED 2
 Sterjovski 7, Townsend 90
 At Olympic Park, Melbourne
GRAND FINAL

By Dwyght Tuffnell

South Melbourne made it back-to-back championships on Sunday, coming from behind to defeat Sydney United 3-2 in one of the best Grand Final's ever.

In a bruising encounter, which at one point threatened to boil over, both sides produced an incident-packed game that see-sawed right from the kick-off.

Goran Lozanovski, in doubt for the game right up until kick-off, was given the Joe Marston Medal for the best player afield after a masterful second half performance.

After looking flat for most of the first half, South turned on the style in the second period, scoring three times, two of those goals coming from substitute John Anastasiadis.

The win is South's fourth championship, their other previous wins coming in 1984, 1991 and 1998.

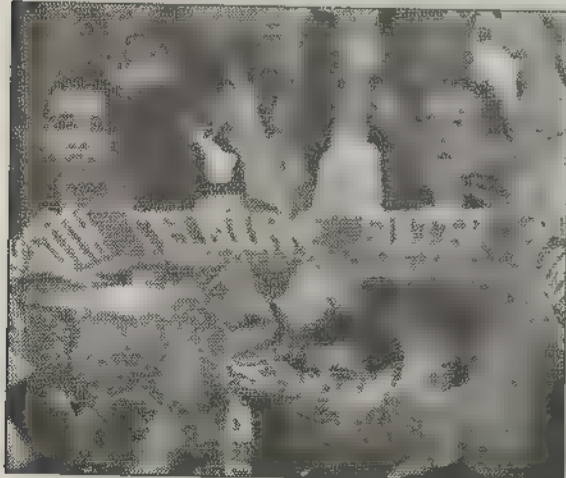
South coach, Ange Postecoglou, said that he was confident going into the second half, even though his side were behind.

"It was a pretty tough game, a good Grand Final, we struggled for the first 20 minutes of the game, we looked a bit flat and they scored a goal from a corner which put us on the back foot" he reflected.

"After that though, we picked it up, the breeze played a big part out there, I knew we'd have them pegged back in the second half, and after 'Trimmers' scored, we never looked back, we had them pinned back in the penalty box.

"Credit to them, they never gave up and scored a goal right at the end, which is typical of them."

Postecoglou's opposite number, David Mitchell, had no complaints.

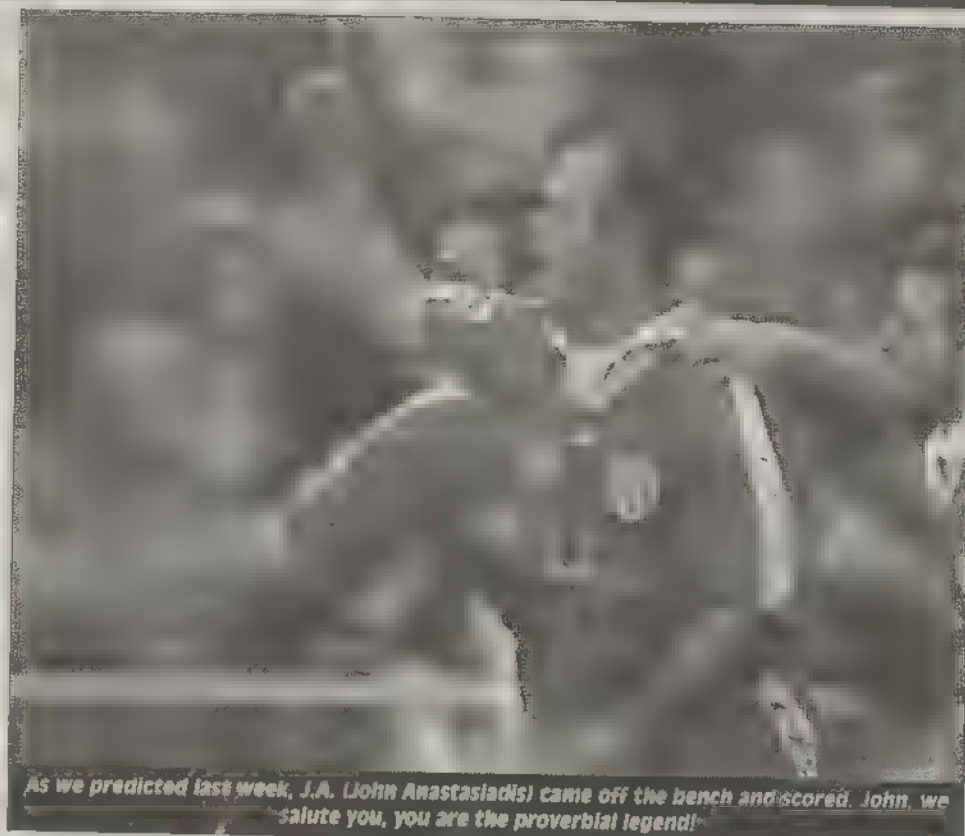


"I can't praise the boys highly enough for the year" said Mitchell.

"Until they scored, I thought we had the best of it, that goal gave them the lift they needed.

"There wasn't much between the teams all year, only the odd goal. I was a bit disappointed we didn't score but earlier after their third goal.

"I was disappointed with the first goal we conceded



As we predicted last week, J.A. (John Anastasiadis) came off the bench and scored. John, we salute you, you are the proverbial legend!

because we were doing well before that."

United, attacking with the aid of a fairly stiff breeze, shocked South with a goal after just seven minutes.

Michael Santalab's inswinging corner found its way to the back post where striker Mile Sterjovski outjumped Steve Iosifidis to head the ball in.

South's first chance arrived nine minutes later when Michael Curcija headed a Fausto De Amicis cross wide. After many similar earlier tackles that went unpunished, Santalab became the first name in referee Simon Micallef's book when he fouled Lozanovski in the 19th minute.

Five minutes later, Santalab looked like he might be off when he re-offended, this time upending David Clarkson, but Micallef let him off with a lecture.

Vaughan Coveny came close to drawing South level in the 35th minute, but headed wide from Steve Panopoulos' centre after a mazy run.

The Olympic Park surface, looking a bit ragged after a rugby game on Friday night, claimed many slipping and sliding victims, not least of all Lozanovski who would have scored the goal of the season had he not succumbed to the wet pitch after a sensational run in which he easily beat three United defenders.

United goal scorer Sterjovski was making a nuisance of himself and his good work deserved to be rewarded.

After testing the South defence with a low cross aimed for Peter Bennett in the 42nd minute, he was allowed to make space for himself to cross again two minutes later.

This time the cross found a target, but midfielder Steve Berry's diving header was watched past his post by Michael Petkovic.

The game became heated just before half-time, not surprisingly considering some of the tackles flying around.

David Barrett fouled Panopoulos and was duly booked by Micallef but while Panopoulos lay on the turf, Nathan Day kicked the ball into him, prompting an angry response from the South Melbourne team, particularly skipper Trimboli.

Both benches and most players were around the area where the incident happened, but after a consultation with his assistant, Micallef issued only yellow cards, to Day and de Amicis.

South equalised seven minutes into the second half, with a question mark over the United defending.

Lozanovski, whose dead-ball expertise came to the fore in the second half, delivered a corner to the near post where Trimboli, completely unmarked, headed into the net.

United though, nearly snatched the lead back three minutes later, but neither Sterjovski or Jacob Burns were able to get onto the end of Santalab's teasing cross.

South defender, Nick Orlic, was starting to make his presence felt at set-pieces and gave a warning of what was to come in the 58th minute when Burns had to clear his downward header off the line after another trademark Lozanovski corner.

Postecoglou sent on super-sub Anastasiadis for Curcija in the 62nd minute, but even he couldn't have imagined the immediate effect that Anastasiadis would have.

He'd been on no longer than 10 seconds before he found the back of the net.

Richard Plesa had given away a free kick on the right hand side when he fouled Coveny. Lozanovski moved into position, picked out Orlic, whose header was parried by United 'keeper Mike Gibson, and there was Anastasiadis to prod the ball home.

Trimboli, who it was later revealed tore a calf muscle in the first half, was substituted shortly after, making way for George Goutzioulis.

Goutzioulis was also something of a super-sub, only in a lesser way, being a vital part in a goal that Postecoglou later described as their best of the season.

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 15,194

Referee: Simon Micallef

South Melbourne: Peikovic, Iosifidis, De Amicis, Orlic, Blatsis, Clarkson, Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli (Goutzioulis 68), Curcija (Anastasiadis 62), Lozanovski (Tsekis 80).

Sydney United: Gibson, Barrett, Kupresak, Plesa, Vrkic, Santalab (Townsend 68), Berry, Bennett, Burns (Ardone 88), Day (Griffiths 63), Sterjovski.

Yellows

South Melbourne: De Amicis 45, Lozanovski 54, Orlic 59, Goutzioulis 72.

Sydney United: Santalab 19, Barrett 45, Day 45, Plesa 62.

Joe Marston Medal (for player of the match): Goran Lozanovski (South Melbourne).

Players Votes of the Year:

3: Lozanovski (SM)

2: Orlic (SM)

1: Sterjovski (SU)

Jim Tsekis started it, passing to Clarkson who released it quickly to Goutzioulis who had the time to measure a perfect cross for Anastasiadis to head his second goal past Gibson.

With the goal coming three minutes from full time South could have been forgiven that the championship was sewn up.

United substitute Danny Townsend ended such thoughts with a scrambled goal in the 90th minute.

United never gave up, but time wasn't on their side. Mitchell, a candidate for, it seems, just about every coaching job going at the moment, said the next couple of weeks were important for the Sydney United club.

"In the next couple of weeks we'll take stock and approach all the players and we'll see where we find ourselves" said Mitchell when asked about the near future for the club.

"Every player had a magnificent season. All the players played with heart and commitment the whole year but today we showed that we can play good football too" were the United coach's final thoughts.

Postecoglou, who can now look forward to the World Club Championship after saying for weeks that he hasn't been thinking about it, was particularly pleased considering that South have had two games in six weeks.

"It wasn't ideal preparation" said Postecoglou. "But I'm delighted with the effort, we finished the stronger and looked sharper."

He also said that Lozanovski, who had struggled to make the match, should have been under the surgeon's knife some time ago.

"He should have had surgery five or six weeks ago. We kept him on ice, we know how important he is to us and he wanted to be a part of it, rather than finish the season early.

"And 'Trimmers' tore his calf in the first half. At half-time I was going to pull him off but he wanted to stay on and then he pops up and scores a goal, that's the stuff that makes champions" concluded Postecoglou.



THE 1999 NSL GRAND FINAL

with Pat Thomson at Olympic Park



TITANIC SYDNEY-MELBOURNE CLASH

Pat Thomson got in close for the feel of an 'old guard' Australian Soccer Grand Final, and found security tight amidst the colour ...

The faint murmur of a crowd bellows over the trees in the Botanical Gardens as the stadium approaches. Brightly coloured fans rush past in earnest to join the party atmosphere, hurrying on their young and proudly displaying their clan's emblems.

The final mound, descent reveals the stadium from beyond the shrubs and a sea of people line the paths, making their way to the Cauldron of Champions. Olympic Park, Melbourne, is the battle ground; Sydney United and Sth Melbourne are the gladiators.

The entrance is in sight and the crowd amassed outside is getting restless. Bands of Sth Melbourne supporters drift by, waving blue flags and screeching their trumpets, closely followed by the United fans; their faces adorned in red and white

With ticket in hand, the turnstile revolves and entry is imminent, yet for the polite police person that asks all patrons to, "Please step onto the searching box." Hands are held aloft and the searching begins, frisked from head to toe for any contraband. One cannot miss the signs that read, "Support Your Club."



that seem unusually out of place, along with several amazing shades of grass colour. All that set aside, the condition of the playing surface seems impeccable from the vantage point.

The crowd is building and a great sense of anticipation fills the air.

The party has begun and the band is playing. The Ericsson girls are out choosing the competitors for the half time "Goal Kicking Competition" and as the sun descends so to do the Parachutists. From the heavens descend the Australian flag followed by the Sponsors', Ericsson.

It's 3:10pm and the crowd has spread to all parts of the stands. The delay in the kick-off leads some supporters to entertain themselves to the dislike of the officials and law officers

An orange mist drifts by, as the first of many smoke screens are set off. The crowd yells and screams in ecstasy, as a supporter points to the benches to let everyone know the players are coming.

It's safe to say most are South Melbourne fans as they cry and cheer for "Loza, Pana, Trimmers and Petka." Meanwhile the band of United supporters, though out-numbered, may be heard as they begin their chant

We are up standing for the National Anthem and scarves are held aloft.

The anthem finishes and an almighty roar fills the stadium. The players limber up and present themselves for their respective team photographs and the chants begin, "Ol-e, Ol-e, Ol-e, Ol-e...Hellas, Hellas," echoed by "Cro-a-tia, Cro-a-tia."

The South players run through their banner and the scene is finally set for the commencement of the game. The referees are set, the ball girls and boys are smiling and the officials remained straight faced as they watch every movement of the crowd while the game unfolds behind them: what torture!

The game has started and we cannot see the ball at the other end of the ground. Thank God for the large screen that shows all the action in clear and brilliant colour.

The game is shaping up to be a fervent affair, and the referee has not produced the yellow card after some crunching tackles. The fans are furious and call for blood as the next smoke screen is hurled.

There are two ground staff who seem to have the sole duty of dealing with smoke screens and flares. The flares are placed into an open bin until they burn themselves out while the smoker screens are quickly shoved into a enclosed tube-like contraption that resembles a rocket launcher

The unrest has caused some concern and there is a greater presence of officials and law enforcement officers now.

Moments pass and Sydney United have a corner. Suddenly, the Sydney-siders score. The United fans are jubilant and the South fans are silenced. A disgruntled supporter throws his cup of beer to the ground and then apologises to a nearby lady who was splashed with the contents.

The faces from both camps spoke for themselves and the flares are thrown from both sides; one in adulation and the other in disappointment.

The game continues and a few penetrating forays up front for South has livened up the supporters once again. However, frustration from the fans are displayed once again for the lack of use of the Yellow Card

Heading towards the end of the half, United seem certain to maintain their lead into the break. Suddenly a scuffle on the pitch breaks out near the team benches. The fans are incensed and the referee has his hands full trying to control the emotions. Flares are lit once again and a free kick is finally awarded followed by several yellow cards.

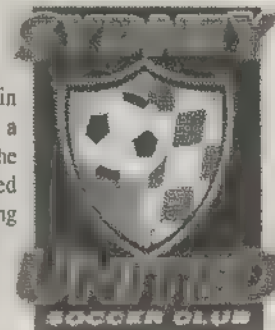
Moments later the half ends and there is a mad rush to the nearest canteen

time silenced.

Another supporter cannot keep his elation to the stands and is taken away. The South fanfare explodes and the officials begin to congregate in and around the "blue corner".

Sydney United supporters spur on their team to lift their side as they chant "Cro-a-tia..." The game has taken on a more spiteful demeanour and more yellow cards are shown with agreement from the 15,194 strong crowd.

South bring on their super-sub Anastasiadis mid way through the half and are shortly awarded a corner. To the amazement of the crowd Anastasiadis has scored with his first touch and the supporters are beside themselves. "What a champion..." and "He's our man..." were just a few comments from the loyal followers.



With ticket in hand, the turnstile revolves and entry is imminent, yet for the polite police person that asks all patrons to, "Please step onto the searching box." Hands are held aloft and the searching begins, frisked from head to toe for any contraband. One cannot miss the signs that read, "Support Your Club," and "The Setting-Off of Flares is Prohibited in the Arena." Before entry into the final viewing area, a search is again undertaken, "just to ensure your buddies didn't slip you anything through the fence," stipulates the official.

The break seems to take an eternity and again the crowd begin to get restless. Finally, the players emerge and the half is under way.

An early goal mouth scramble went beckoning for South, which had incensed a few supporters to a point that they were dragged from the arena and taken away by the Police. Both seemed to be elated, with one of them even continuing his antics, holding up his scarf and spurring the fans.

It's not long before South win another corner. "Loza" whips in the cross and "Trimmers" scores. The stadium erupts. The fans are screaming

Flares are ignited and the United contingent is this

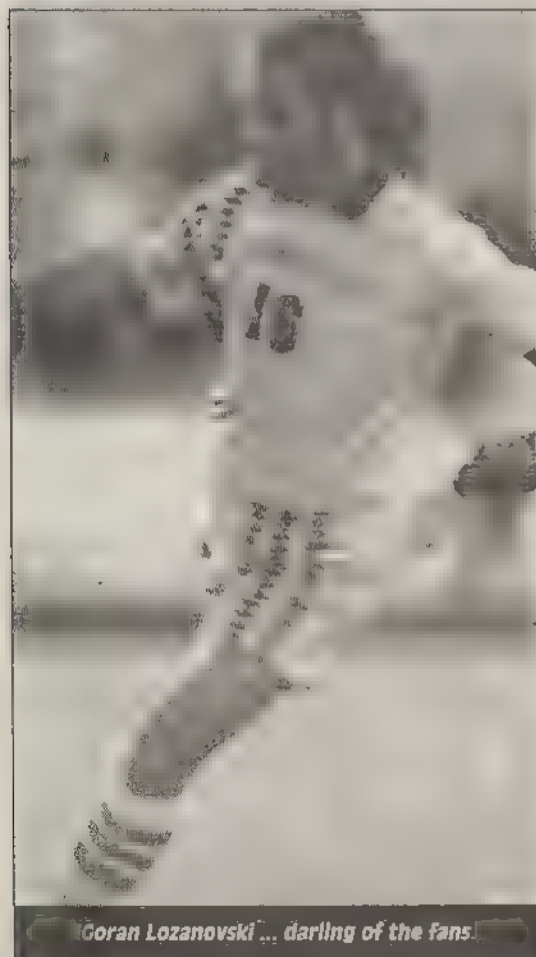
More flares and smoke are thrown and the South supporters begin to smell victory in the air. Every Sydney mistake is jeered and the United support is slowly dwindling.

The clock shows ten minutes remaining and more officials and police personnel stream around the ground to form a chain in an effort to prevent a pitch invasion.

While the supporters are concentrating on the increased police presence, they notice an opportunity on the field for South. To their amazement, their super-sub scores again and the arena comes alive. The giant is awake and a thunderous repeated wave of sound fills the air. "We are the CHAMPIONS!"

Meanwhile the Sydney United supporters begin to make their way to the exits. Yet a glimmer of hope stopped them in the aisles as United pegged one back with minutes to go. Although valiant during the game, the goal buffer was enough to see South run away victors 3-2.

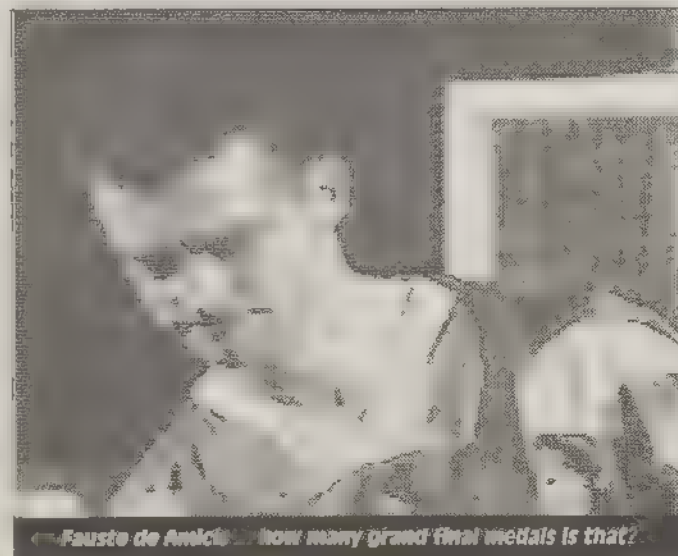
The fans are crazed with joy as Trimboli and Postecoglou hold aloft the Ericsson Cup. The fans will no doubt celebrate the win and there is already growing anticipation for next season and the World Club Championship.



Goran Lozanovski... darling of the fans!

The Setting-Off of Flares is Prohibited in the Arena." Before entry into the final viewing area, a search is again undertaken, "just to ensure your buddies didn't slip you anything through the fence," stipulates the official.

As the top of the stairs encroaches, the battle field is unveiled in all its glory. The lines of combat are marked, yet there are some interesting faint markings



Fausto de Amici... how many grand final medals is that?

National Youth League

Argon Video Productions

AIS' GRAND FINAL DEMOLITION!

Record final score for the Institute

Australian Institute of Sport 8

(Kevo Gulesserian 2, Joshua Kennedy 2,
Grant Last, Johnny Cvetanovski,
Daniel Vasilevski, own goal)

Adelaide City 1

(Robert Saraceno)

ADELAIDE CITY



The Australian Institute of Sport was far too strong for Adelaide City in the National Play-off of the National Youth League winning by eight goals to one.

The match was switched to Knights Stadium in Sunshine to save the pitch at Olympic Park for the Ericsson Cup final, which disappointed the players of both teams who had been looking forward to performing in front of a big crowd in the curtain raiser.

The AIS broke through after 18 minutes with a sharply taken goal by Johnny Cvetanovski, but City hit back with a good strike by Robert Saraceno five minutes later. That ended the first half scoring though the ever-dangerous Kevo Gulesserian twice came close with shots for the AIS.

Two minutes after the interval Grant Last got clear at the far post to finish for the AIS, then two goals in three minutes by Gulesserian settled the result.

For the first he cut in from the right side and fired a shot just inside the left post. For the second he outjumped the big Adelaide defence to head home a free kick.

When Adelaide's scorer was sent off for dissent, following a tackles the Adelaide heads started to drop and the AIS added four more goals. Joshua

CHAMPIONS!



Kennedy got two, one with a close range finish, the other a rebound after a shot was blocked.

Daniel Vasilevski's inswinging corner kick was helped into the Adelaide net by a defender and then Vasilevski scored unaided with a shot through a ruck of bodies.

Matt Kemp, Ljubo Milicevic, Wayne Shroj, keeper Michael Turnbull all did well for the AIS, while Dusty McGregor, David Terminello and keeper Antony Breardon battled hard for City.

The nominations for the NYL player of the year in the Northern Division are Simon Catanzaro of the NSWIS, Chad Bishop of Wollongong Wolves and Ljubo Milicevic of the AIS.

In the Southern Division the nominees are Andrew Masholan of South Melbourne, Deniz Ekiel of Carlton and Nick Tolios of Carlton. All votes are by their fellow players.

Final League Ladder South Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlton	24	17	4	3	72	26	55
South Melbourne	24	14	3	7	44	25	45
VIS	24	11	6	7	47	33	39
Gippsland Falcons	24	10	4	10	43	34	34
Melbourne Knights	24	9	3	12	44	53	30
Bulleen Inter Kings	24	8	5	11	29	44	29
Albury Wodonga	24	1	3	20	20	84	6

(Games not played recorded as 0-0)

Final League Ladder Northern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIS	28	20	7	1	103	19	67
Sydney Olympic	28	20	4	4	89	30	64
Northern Spirit	28	20	2	6	68	24	62
Newcastle Breakers	28	18	5	5	62	29	59
Marconi Fairfield	28	17	5	6	78	26	56
NSWIS	28	17	3	8	69	33	54
Wollongong Wolves	28	17	2	9	85	35	53
QAS	28	15	2	11	72	44	47
Sydney United	28	12	4	12	59	48	40
Marconi Fairfield Colts	28	8	5	15	35	48	29
ACTAS	28	7	3	18	38	73	24
Northern Spirit Colts	28	4	3	21	23	102	15
Sydney Olympic Academy	28	3	5	20	26	99	14
Sydney United Colts	28	4	1	23	29	97	13
Wollongong Wolves Colts	28	1	3	24	15	142	6

LEADING SOUTHERN SCORERS

Andrew Gulesserian	10	Grant Last	4	Johnny Cvetanovski	3	Joshua Kennedy	2	Daniel Vasilevski	2	Robert Saraceno	1	Own Goal	1
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AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH

SOCCER WEEKLY



THE TEAM OF T

MANCHESTER UNITED

1998/99
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LEAGUE

1998/99
ENGLISH
PREMIER
LEAGUE

1998/99
ENGLISH F. A.
CUP WINNERS



THE CENTURY...

NSW SUPER LEAGUE

SUPER LEAGUE

First Grade: Blacktown City 3 (D Brown 31m, Angelucci 71m, P Yates 83m) bt Ryde City 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4 (R Younis 6/67m, M Crnokrak 65m, J Ghiso 37m) bt Central Coast 0, Sutherland Sharks 2 (C Tolson 8m, Own Goal 15m) bt Bankstown City 0, Parramatta Eagles 5 (A Anderson 37m, G Bard 84/86/89m, P O'Grady 90m) bt Eastern Suburbs 1 (G Magus 82m), Canterbury Marrickville 3 (S Christoforidis 25/75m, Z Ilic 85m) bt Leichhardt Tigers 0.

U/21: Ryde City 3 bt Blacktown City 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4 bt Central Coast 1, Bankstown City 5 bt Sutherland Sharks 1, Parramatta Eagles 1 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Canterbury Marrickville 4 bt Leichhardt Tigers 3.

U/18: Blacktown City 1 bt Ryde City 0, Central Coast 2 bt Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1, Bankstown City 1 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Parramatta Eagles 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Leichhardt Tigers 1 drew Canterbury Marrickville 1.

DIVISION ONE

First Grade: St George 3 (L Dounis, 3 goals) bt Manly Warringah 1 (D Barbalace), Manly Warringah 2 (D Harding 17m, A Townsend 44m) bt Moorebank Sports 0, Stanmore Hawks 1 (E Wong 31m) bt Penrith Panthers 0, St George 4 (A Araujo 6/31/84m, S Janic 14m) bt Auburn United 2 (H Bayhan 51/88m), AC United 2 (A Marvello 21m, C Holbrook 83m) drew Rockdale City Suns 2 (P Apolevski 61m, G Trposki 72m), Bathurst '75 1 (S Mutton 61m) bt Illawarra Lions 0, Hurstville City 4 (P Joannou 30m, E Vassiliadis 37m, T Pontidas 65m, S Kladis 84m) bt Dulwich Hill 1 (I De Jesus 14m).

U/21: St George 2 bt Manly Warringah 1, Manly Warringah 3 bt Moorebank Sports 1, Stanmore Hawks 2 bt Penrith Panthers 1, St George 3 bt Auburn United 2, Rockdale City Suns 4 bt AC United 0, Illawarra Lions 4 bt Bathurst '75 1, Hurstville City 3 bt Dulwich Hill 1.

U/18: Manly Warringah 4 bt St George 0, Moorebank Sports 0 bt Manly Warringah 1, Penrith Panthers 2 bt Stanmore Hawks 1, St George 4 bt Auburn United 2, AC United 5 bt Rockdale City Suns 0, Bathurst '75 1 bt Illawarra Lions 0, Dulwich Hill 2 bt Hurstville City 0.

DIVISION TWO

First Grade: Sydney District 1 (L Refojas 57m) drew Belmore Hercules 1 (J Christou 90m), Arncliffe Scots 4 (E Tomasic 12m, R Todorovski 24m, A Prentzas 47m, Z Nasteovski 62m) bt Hills United 0, Sydney University 2 (L McDougall 47m, D Brown 68m) bt Mt Pritchard 1, Hajduk Wanderers 4 (J Ellul 28m, D Brown 74m, P Croci 81m, P Pecotic 86m) bt University of NSW 1 (D Bykerk 17m), Mt Druitt Town 4 (P Graham 8m, G Bonanno 12/66m, L Cross 58m) bt Belmore Hercules 2 (N Hall 18m, G Ganiatsas 32m), Fraser Park 5 (Own Goal 19m, M Zec 45/76m, M Remoudos 51m, P Audriopoulos 77m) bt Sydney District 0, Hurstville ZSC 2 (V Zoric 8m, G Deprato 70m) bt Greystanes 0.

U/21: Belmore Hercules 2 bt Sydney District 1, Hills United 1 drew Arncliffe Scots 1, Sydney University 1 drew Mt Pritchard 1, Hajduk Wanderers 3 bt University of NSW 2, Mt Druitt Town 6 bt Belmore Hercules 0, Fraser Park 4 bt Sydney District 2, Hurstville ZSC 2 bt Greystanes 1.

U/18: Sydney District 2 drew Belmore Hercules 2, Arncliffe Scots 2 drew University of NSW 2, Hills United 6 bt Arncliffe Scots 0, Mt Pritchard 2 bt Sydney University 1, Hajduk Wanderers 4 bt University of NSW 1, Mt Druitt Town 1 drew Belmore Hercules 1, Sydney District 3 bt Fraser Park 1, Greystanes 3 bt Hurstville ZSC 0.

DIVISION THREE

First Grade: Western Sydney Lions 2 bt Prospect United 1, Western Sydney Lions 1 bt Liverpool City 0, White City 3 bt Trasandinos 1, Hakoah 0 drew Gladesville United 0, Camden Tigers 3 bt Colo Colo 2, Parramatta City 3 bt Prospect United 1, The Wanderers 9 bt Maroubra United 4.

Second Grade: Western Sydney Lions 3 bt Prospect United 0, Western Sydney Lions 3 bt Liverpool City 0, Trasandinos 4 bt White City 3, Hakoah 8 bt Gladesville United 4, Colo Colo 1 drew Camden Tigers 1, Prospect United 7 bt Parramatta City 1, Maroubra United 3 bt The Wanderers 2.

DIVISION FOUR

First Grade: Holy Cross College 1 bt Auburn Star 0, Nepean District 2 drew United Eagles 2, Eastern Creek Pioneers 3 bt Prairiewood United 0, CSI Schofields 3 bt Balmain 2, Marrickville 1 bt Hawkesbury City 0, Holy Cross Ryde 0 drew Sydney Crescent Star 0, Granville Greenisland 4 bt White Valley 0, Auburn Star 1 drew Springwood 1.

Second Grade: Holy Cross College 3 bt Auburn Star 2, United Eagles 1 bt Nepean District 0, Prairiewood United 3 bt Eastern Creek Pioneers 1, Balmain 2 bt CSI Schofields 1, Hawkesbury City vs Marrickville P/P, Holy Cross Ryde 3 bt Sydney Crescent Star 0, White Valley 1 drew Granville Greenisland 1, Springwood 1 bt Auburn Star 0.

DIVISION FIVE

First Grade: UTS 3 bt Sydney TUSC 0, Macquarie Sports 3 bt Sydney United Kings 0, UTS 1 bt Liverpool Olympic 0, Kosciuszko 3 bt Bossy 2, Sporting SCC 3 bt Sydney United Kings

0, Kellyville Kolts 7 bt Lithgow Workmen 0, Sydney TUSC 3 bt Earlwood Hermes 1, AVA United 5 bt Homenetmen 1.

Second Grade: Macquarie Sports 3 bt Sydney United Kings 0, Liverpool Olympic 2 bt UTS 0, Kosciuszko 2 bt Bossy 0, Sporting SCC 3 bt Sydney United Kings 0, Kellyville Kolts 3 bt Lithgow Workmen 0, Sydney TUSC 3 bt Earlwood Hermes 0, Homenetmen 2 bt AVA United 1, Sydney TUSC 2 bt UTS 1.

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

First Grade: NSW ITC/Academy 2 bt NNSW ITC/Academy 0, NNSW ITC/Academy 2 bt Shoalhaven Assoc 0, Central Coast 3 bt Sutherland Sharks 1.

Second Grade: NSW ITC/Academy 4 bt NNSW ITC/Academy 2, NNSW ITC/Academy 4 bt Shoalhaven Assoc 0, Central Coast 0 drew Sutherland Sharks 0.

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE

First Grade: St George Association 2 bt Wollongong Wolves 1, Bathurst City 4 bt Roselands 0. **Second Grade:** Wollongong Wolves 2 bt St George Association 1, Roselands 2 bt Bathurst City 0.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

U/13: Leichhardt Tigers 2 bt Gladesville Hornsby 1, Parramatta Eagles 4 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, Marconi Fairfield 3 bt Sydney United 1, Sutherland Sharks 2 bt Macarthur Rams 1, Manly Warringah 3 bt Southern Districts 1, Blacktown City 2 bt Newcastle Breakers 0, Sydney Olympic 4 bt Central Coast 0, Southern Branch 1 drew Wollongong Wolves 1.

U/14: Gladesville Hornsby 3 bt Leichhardt Tigers 1, Parramatta Eagles 3 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Sydney United 4 bt Marconi Fairfield 2, Macarthur Rams 1 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Southern Districts 1 drew Manly Warringah 1, Blacktown City 2 bt Newcastle Breakers 0, Sydney Olympic 3 bt Central Coast 1, Southern Branch 2 bt Wollongong Wolves 1.

U/15: Gladesville Hornsby 3 bt Leichhardt Tigers 0, Eastern Suburbs 0 drew Parramatta Eagles 0, Marconi Fairfield 3 bt Sydney United 0, Sutherland Sharks 5 bt Macarthur Rams 0, Southern Districts 6 bt Manly Warringah 2, Newcastle Breakers 4 bt Blacktown City 2, Sydney Olympic 3 bt Central Coast 1, Wollongong Wolves 4 bt Southern Branch 0.

U/16: Leichhardt Tigers 2 bt Gladesville Hornsby 0, Parramatta Eagles 5 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Marconi Fairfield 1 bt Sydney United 0, Sutherland Sharks 5 bt Macarthur Rams 0, Southern Districts 6 bt Manly Warringah 2, Newcastle Breakers 4 bt Blacktown City 2, Sydney Olympic 3 bt Central Coast 1, Wollongong Wolves 1 bt Southern Branch 0.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE

U/13: Canterbury Marrickville 1 bt Canterbury Association 0, Bankstown Association 4 bt Stanmore Hawks 1, Illawarra Lions 1 bt Penrith Panthers 0, Hills United 2 bt AC United 1, Blacktown Association 2 bt Fairfield Bulls 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 drew St George 1, Rockdale City Suns 1 bt Ryde City 0, Bankstown Assoc 4 bt Fairfield Bulls 1.

U/14: Canterbury Marrickville 3 bt Canterbury Association 1, Stanmore Hawks 2 bt Bankstown ASSOC 0, Illawarra Lions 3 drew Penrith Panthers 3, AC United 2 bt Hills United 1, Blacktown Association 0 drew Fairfield Bulls 0, St George 3 bt Bonnyrigg WE 1, Ryde City 1 drew Rockdale City Suns 1, Bankstown Assoc 5 bt Fairfield Bulls 1.

U/15: Canterbury Association 2 bt Canterbury M'Ville 1, Bankstown Association 3 bt Stanmore Hawks 1, Illawarra Lions 3 bt Penrith Panthers 0, AC United 1 bt Hills United 0, Blacktown Association 2 drew Fairfield Bulls 2, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4 bt St George 2, Ryde City 4 bt Rockdale City Suns 1, Bankstown Assoc 6 bt Fairfield Bulls 0.

U/16: Canterbury Association 7 bt Canterbury M'Ville 0, Stanmore Hawks 3 bt Bankstown Assoc 2, Illawarra Lions 3 bt Penrith Panthers 1, Hills United 2 bt AC United 1, Blacktown Association 1 bt Fairfield Bulls 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 drew St George 1, Ryde City vs Rockdale City Suns, Bankstown Assoc 3 bt Fairfield Bulls 1.

DIVISION TWO YOUTH LEAGUE

U/13: Nepean Association 6 bt CSI Schofields 0, Ku-ring-gai Association 1 drew Macquarie Sports 1, Hajduk Wanderers 3 bt Granville Association 0, Mt Druitt Town 2 drew Mt Pritchard 2, Moorebank Sports 1 bt Camden Tigers 0, Hawkesbury City 4 bt Parramatta City 0.

U/14: Nepean Association 0 drew CSI Schofields 0, Macquarie Sports 2 bt Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc 1, Granville Association 4 bt Hajduk Wanderers 0, Mt Pritchard 2 bt Mt Druitt Town 0, Camden Tigers 4 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Hawkesbury City 0 drew Parramatta City 0.

U/15: Nepean Association 6 bt CSI Schofields 2, Ku-ring-gai Association 5 bt Macquarie Sports 0, Hajduk Wanderers 6 bt Granville Association 1, Mt Pritchard 3 bt Mt Druitt Town 1, Moorebank Sports 1 bt Camden Tigers 0, Parramatta City 6 bt Hawkesbury City 0.

U/16: Nepean Association 7 bt CSI Schofields 0, Macquarie Sports 2 bt Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc 0, Hajduk Wanderers 2 bt Granville Association 0, Mt Druitt Town 2 bt Mt Pritchard 0, Camden Tigers 6 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Hawkesbury City 1 drew Parramatta City 1.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND



19

Sunday 6th June

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Blacktown City Demons

Serbian Centre, 3:00pm

Bankstown City Lions v Central Coast

Jensen Park, 3:00pm

Fairfield Bulls v Sutherland Sharks

Nineveh Field, 3:00pm

Parramatta Eagles v Macarthur Rams

Melita Stadium, 3:00pm

Canterbury Marrickville v Eastern Suburbs

Henson Park, 3:00pm

Ryde City v Leichhardt Tigers

Wentworth Park, 3:00pm

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BLACKTOWN STAY TOP

With the ANZAC Cup being played the day before, the clash between Macarthur Rams and Fairfield Bulls has been re-arranged for Sunday June 13, as Macarthur had five players in the New South Wales Blues side that went down to Northern New South Wales.

The top two teams in Super League did play however, and both scored comfortable wins. Leaders Blacktown defeated Ryde City 3-0 at the Gabbie Stadium, a goal after half an hour by Damien Brown being complemented by two late goals through Jon Angelucci and Paul Yates.

Bonnyrigg went one better however as they remained a point behind the Demons, defeating the Central Coast 4-0. The home side were missing star strikers Robert Gomez (suspension) and Colin Luff (injury) but didn't miss them, as Ray Younis with two, Johnny Ghiso and the impressive Milan Crnokrak sent the Coasties home without reward.

At Lambert Park the Leichhardt Tigers must have fancied their chances against a Canterbury Marrickville team who had conceded 12 in their past two matches.

Unfortunately for a large crowd however, Canterbury Marrickville snapped into every tackle and came away deserved winners, 3-0 with goals by Steve Christoforidis (2) and a late goal to Zoran Ilic, who turned in another great display in the middle of the park.

The Sutherland Sharks pulled off a surprise 2-0 victory over a Bankstown city side that had won their previous four games, with goals from Cord Tolson and an own goal, both in the first 15 minutes.

The win moves the Sharks into third from bottom, and with a crucial game against bottom club Central Coast tonight.

Parramatta defeated Eastern Suburbs 5-1 at Wentworth Park, but only courtesy of an astonishing finale to the game.

It was 1-0 to Parramatta with 8 minutes to go, then George Maglis equalised for the home side. Any hopes of snatching a valuable point however were soon crushed as Grant Bard scored a hat-trick in 5 minutes, before big Paul O'Grady scored in the 90th minute to move the Eagles into fourth spot.

QUEENSLAND

FASTEST KEEPER IN TOWN? THAT'S ROSSY!

One hundred metres in 10.6 seconds is not something that you would expect of a goalkeeper but whenever Graham Ross takes the field, he is usually fastest player on the park.

With his origins in Townsville, he started playing football at the age of five at Aitkenvale SC as a striker. It wasn't until the age of 10 and the fact that his team's goalkeeper broke his leg during a game, that Ross put his hand up to have a go in goals. Since then he has made the goalmouth his home.

He spent 17 years with Aitkenvale and made the Queensland side each year from the under 12's through to the under 17's. Ross was also the keeper for the Australian

PREMIER FOOTBALL

Schoolboys team that toured England in 1985.

Also in 1985, he represented his school at the state athletic titles at QEII in the 100 metre sprint and with no experience or preparation, he came out and ran an Australian age record in a time of 10.6 seconds, which stood for about six years.

"I never had formal training and it just happened," Ross said.

"I didn't enjoy athletics, so I surprised myself when I ran that fast."

In 1986 and with school behind him, Ross moved to Brisbane and joined the Brisbane City outfit under coach Jim Hermiston. City at that time, was competing in the Philips National League.

As the understudy to City's regular keeper Kim Wishart, Ross spent the two seasons prior to their relegation.

From 1988 to 1993, Ross appeared to wander from club to club but in actual fact this was an important part of his learning curve. Spending time with formidable coaches like Juan Cutillas at Acacia Ridge, John Stewart at Rochedale Rovers and John Ogden at Taringa Rovers.

This obviously paid off as he was loaned to the Brisbane Strikers in 1994 and impressed Bruce Stowell enough for the Strikers to offer him a contract the following season.

For the next three seasons, Ross was the reserve goalkeeper for the Strikers but managed to fit in 21 national league games before he decided that playing on a regular basis was more important.

It was a great experience playing national league and I would have liked to have played more," Ross said.

"It was frustrating being an understudy all the time, so I decided to go back to Rochedale Rovers where I could play regularly."

Even though Ross was part of the Strikers' championship year, has seven Queensland caps to his credit and won a championship with Rochedale Rovers in 1993. He is more excited about the prospect of his team winning the premiership.

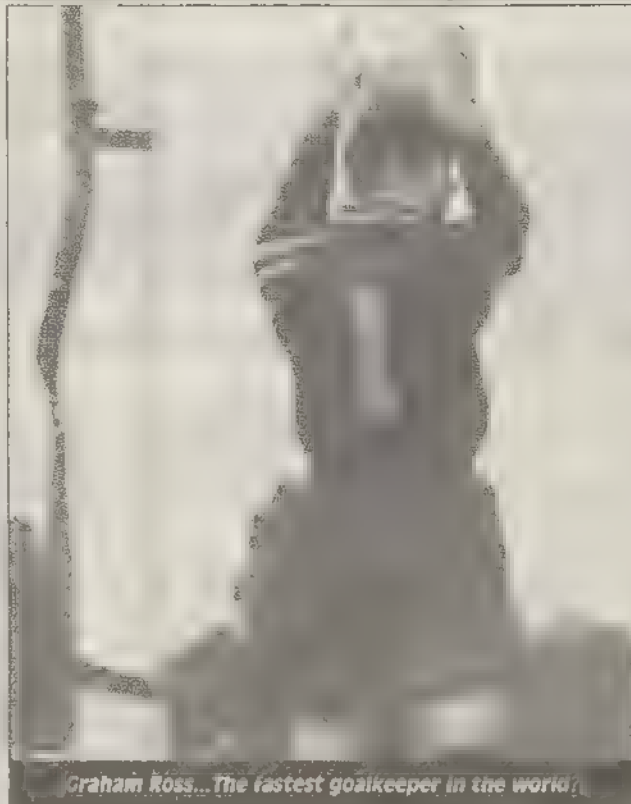
"I believe it is Rochedale's best ever chance to win a premiership, which is something the club has never achieved," Ross said.

"The season has been difficult and I think the team that is most consistent will prevail."

Outside of football, golf is about the only other sporting interest for the speedster. He works for Statewide Sports who are the Australian distributors of Uhlsport and the remainder of his time is spent with wife Natalie and 15 month old son Tomas.

Ross has not dismissed the idea of playing national league again if the opportunity presented itself.

"I would seriously consider it but not as an understudy, five years was long enough," he concluded.



Graham Ross... The fastest goalkeeper in the world!

Taringa Rovers grabbed their first piece of silverware for the season with a comfortable 2-nil President's Trophy victory over Brisbane Lions at Jack Speare Park on Sunday.

The President's Trophy is fought out between the leading two teams at the end of first round of Queensland Premier League fixtures.

Taringa's triumph was sweet revenge for a first round draw between the two sides in which Taringa were desperately unlucky not to have beaten Lions on their home turf.

Taringa, who now move back in the premier league's top four at the expense of Brisbane City following their 3-1 loss to league leaders Rochedale, got off to a dream start with the opening goal in the first minute.

Taringa youngster Des Hughes made a solo run towards the Brisbane Lions goal but lost his way in front of goals.

Hughes lost possession allowing Lions defender Roy Huth to attempt a long range clearance which took a rebound off his own defender and fell back into the path for Hughes to hammer home.

Lions were stung by the early setback but should have drawn the equaliser in the 20th minute when youngster Patrick Castillo angled an easy shot wide of the upright from close range.

If luck didn't go with Lions then, it did two minutes later when Taringa missed a golden opportunity to extend their lead.

Lions keeper Rob Farrow did well to deny Taringa striker Ben Wood with an outstretched leg with the rebound falling perfectly for striker Richard Hill who muffed a simple chance in front of an open goal.

Lions again had a chance to level on the half hour when a Taringa defender committed a sin by allowing the ball to bounce near his own line.

Lowndes failed to see Lions striker Robbie Laslo who snuck in rifling his shot over the crossbar.

Taringa went 2-nil up ten minutes from the break following a thundering low left foot shot from midfielder Scotty Robertson from an acute angle.

Lions coach Miron Bleiberg, who benched three of his most experienced players in Steve Starr and strikers Warren Allen and Greg Di Losa, was forced through injury and necessity to bring all three into the game soon after half-time.

The injection of the trio gave Lions a bigger impact in the second half but Taringa's defence held firm.

Lions defender Darren Sime missed with a header 16 minutes after the resumption which could have made for an intriguing final half hour.

However, Taringa hitback within a minute with the best movement of the match between Craig Barnes, Robertson and Hill.

Barnes, who was one of Taringa's better players, put Robertson into space down the left before he cut back for Hill who snapped his close range shot over the bar.

Lions tried valiantly to get back into the game in the final 20 minutes but the closest they came was when midfielder Vedran Becirbegovic hit the crossbar from 25 metres.

Taringa keeper Clint Del Santo played his part in keeping a blank score sheet when he got a finger tip to push wide shot from Allen just wide of the upright five minutes from time.

Lions' defeat enabled Ipswich Knights to draw level on the table with 26 points, but third on goal differences following their 3-2 thriller against Wynnum.

Ipswich's goal came from a double from striker John Clark and Damien Conquest while Wynnum scored through Paul De Vries and Luke Adair.

Rochedale Rovers maintained their winning momentum with a double from striker Matt Olley and another from Steve Fitzsimmons in their hard fought 3-1 victory over Brisbane City at Underwood Park on Saturday night. Nathan Carlross was the solitary scorer for Brisbane City.

In other games Gold Coast continued their good recent form downing Bundaberg 2-1 after successful strikes from Peter Dwyer and Ian Hutchinson while Mt Gravatt and Toowoomba drew 1-all.

ROUND 16

05-06	Mt Gravatt	v	Taringa Rovers	7.00pm
06-06	Gold Coast	v	Brisbane Lions	2.45pm
06-06	Ipswich Knights	v	B'berg Waves	2.45pm
06-06	Brisbane City	v	Wynnum	2.45pm
06-06	Toowoomba Utd	v	Rochedale rov	2.45pm

QUEENSLAND UPDATE

XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Rochedale Rov	15	10	0	5	36	24	12	30
Brisbane Lions	15	8	2	5	34	26	8	26
IPSW Knights	15	8	2	5	25	20	5	26
Taringa Rovers	15	7	4	4	24	14	10	25
Brisbane City	15	7	3	5	27	20	7	24
Gold Coast	14	5	7	2	26	21	5	22
B'berg Waves	15	5	3	7	23	24	-1	18
Wynnum	14	4	2	8	22	30	8	14
Mt Gravatt	15	3	4	8	21	37	-16	13
Toowoomba Utd	15	1	5	9	11	33	-22	8

ROUND 15 SCORES

Mt Gravatt	.....1	Toowoomba Utd	.....1
Rochedale Rov	.....3	Brisbane City	.....1
Wynnum	.....2	IPSW Knights	.....3
B'berg Waves	.....1	Gold Coast	.....2
Taringa Rovers	.....2	Brisbane Lions	.....0

DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Rocklea Utd	14	11	2	1	50	17	33	35
Capalaba	14	9	1	4	29	17	12	28
Souths Utd	13	7	3	3	29	17	12	24
Slacks Creek	13	5	4	4	29	31	-2	19
Inala City	13	5	2	6	23	33	-10	17
Olympic Utd	12	5	0	7	23	25	-2	15
Beenleigh	11	3	2	6	20	27	-7	11
Redlands Utd	13	2	3	8	16	35	-19	9
Acacia Ridge	13	1	3	9	15	32	-17	6

ROUND 15 SCORES

Slacks Creek	.....2	Rocklea Utd	.....2
Inala City	.....2	Capalaba	.....2
Redlands Utd	.....2	Souths Utd	.....3
Olympic Utd v Beenleigh			
(Sunday Night Game)			
Acacia Ridge - bye			

DIVISION ONE NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Eastern Subs	13	8	4	1	27	14	13	28
North Star	13	8	2	3	35	19	16	26
Pine Rivers Utd	13	7	2	4	23	14	9	23
Uni of Qld	14	6	2	6	24	26	-2	20
Albany Creek	12	5	4	3	22	20	2	19
Newmarket	12	5	2	5	20	20	0	17
The Gap	13	4	1	8	24	35	-11	13
Grange Thistle	13	2	4	7	15	28	-13	10
Mitchelton	13	1	3	9	13	27	-14	6

ROUNDS 15 SCORES

Grange Thistle	.....1	Uni of Qld	.....1
Pine Rivers Utd	.....0	The Gap	.....2
Albany Creek	.....0	North Star	.....0
Eastern Subs	.....5	Newmarket	.....1
Mitchelton - bye			

eat well  **live well**

PREMIER LEAGUE



FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME

Tired of reading about Manchester United, NSL glamour boys or another Aussie playing overseas pulling in more money a week than the average man takes home a year?

If so then take a trip with Soccer Weekly, to the grass roots of our great game, lower league soccer.

It's a world where the club secretary pulls on the boots, where the referee fails to show up and where the players actually pay for the privilege of playing.

Welcome to the Victorian Provisional League — Provisional League Division Two North-West to be precise — and a day in the life of University of Melbourne Blues Soccer Club.

With the Premier League on a break, we search for where the characters of the game can be found. Grass-roots soccer, where love of football conquers all, sees Dwyght Tuffnell get a dose of the real footballing hero, those who play for the love not money ...

The club does get some financial help from the University, but they still have to satisfy certain criteria.

Every player must become a member of the University's Sports Union (which costs them \$125) as well as having a university degree. If the club cannot provide the University with this before a deadline, then they don't get any money.

This is the case with all university teams in Melbourne. If you're a plumber, builder or painter and want a game of soccer, don't bother trying out with a club that has 'University' as its second name, unless you hold a degree from a university.

It may sound a little elitist, but the fact of the matter is that these clubs live thanks to money granted to them by the university they are

representing

There is not many other ways that they are able to make money

With no gate takings, options are fairly limited as to pulling in much-needed funds. But money has to keep coming in.

"We've got ground fees to pay, the referees have to be paid and then there is the VSF to attend to" explained Licciardello.

The Uni Blues players are charged match fees and the club has a few sponsors.

They have no canteen facilities, save for an esky stocked with beer and soft drinks that sits on the edge of the pitch while the game goes on.

With such a lot on his plate, you may wonder what keeps Licciardello, an accountant during the week, in his position with the club.

"This is far more challenging than what I do on a full-time basis" he says.

"It is tough juggling work and the club but it's all worthwhile in the end as long as we can keep everybody happy."

It's a big day for the Uni Blues when Soccer Weekly visits. Both seniors and reserves are up against Ballarat. In the reserves it's 2nd (Ballarat) v 3rd (Uni Blues).

The firsts, 4th on the ladder, take on a Ballarat side which is sitting in third position.

Most of the players (seniors and reserves), have been at the ground for a couple of hours.

With the ground in close proximity to Optus Oval and with a game there on today, parking is at an absolute premium.

Everybody helps out to set up. The corner flags, coaches' benches and goal-nets are all in place an hour before the reserves kick-off.

The bumper-to-bumper traffic and dearth of parking has obviously got to the reserves referee who fails to make an appearance. At least it saves the club some money.

Club stalwart, 'Marmie' Metcalfe takes the whistle and does quite a good job.

The Uni Blues win 2-1 with goals from player-coach, Robin Quinn, and an absolute cracker from secretary Licciardello.

Sean Tobin is the coach of the seniors, a slightly less glamorous role than his brother Alex, of Adelaide City and the Socceroos, plays in Australian soccer.

Another Tobin, Rob, is also in the first team, but only just, after passing a late fitness test.

Ballarat take the lead in the 23rd minute, only to be pegged back by a goal from Uni Blues striker Andy Brown five minutes later.

Late in the game, the crowd is boosted to a couple of thousand thanks to the fans streaming out of Optus Oval.

The match ends at 1-1 and the players pull down the nets, take up the corner flags and head to the dressing rooms.

Despite the fact that only one team is promoted out of their division, the Uni Blues still have hopes of going up but if they don't, it's not the end of the world.

"In a club like this the first option is to avoid relegation, but we're certainly in the right spot at the moment" said Sean Tobin.

This his first crack at coaching. One his first tasks was to trim down a

squad that originally had 60 players to 35, a figure that still seems bloated.

"It's difficult with such a big squad to keep everyone interested. What we aim to do is to keep the intensity there all the way through the season."

the same, it's just that everyone else has caught up."

Both Gill and 'Marmie' took part in one of the club's finest moments, a 1989 trip to Vietnam, the first Australian sporting club after the war, as Gill explains.

"I was president of the club at the time and some bloke just rings up out of the blue and says 'Do you want to go on a trip to Vietnam?'"

"It turned out he was a travel agent, they'd only just opened their doors to the West about six months earlier.

"It was terrific, it was our fourteen days of fame."

The two matches they played there were against a couple of their better sides in front of crowds of five and eight thousand people and, although they lost both games, the results were not important.

"We weren't advertised as a top



Harry Gill and 'Marmie' are two icons of the club.

Gill first playing with the Uni Blues back in 1977 whilst 'Marmie' ('Marmie' was reluctant to reveal his Christian name to Soccer Weekly) has been with the club since way back in 1968.

Neither have seen much success at the club.

"We've come close to winning championships before, but when it came to the crunch, we never quite made it" says Gill.

'Marmie' was there when the club was in Metropolitan division 2, and when they narrowly missed promotion to the top league.

"We had an amazing array of players playing for us back then" he said. "We had an ex-Australian captain, Angus Drennan, who played for Australia in the 1950s. He played with the Blues till he was 50."

The Metcalfe family is synonymous with the Uni Blues.

'Marmie' and his son have both coached the senior team and his wife has coached the women's team.

He reckons he's played about 1000 games for the club during his time, ranging from the firsts, reserves and, nowadays, with the veterans team.

"I've just about played against every team who plays in the state league now, the standard of soccer that we play has remained

Australian team or anything, but those people didn't know, it was a little embarrassing actually" said Gill.

'Marmie', who went on the other overseas trip with the club in 1985 to Hawaii for a universities competition, also had fond memories of the tour to Vietnam.

"It was fantastic. We were basically chosen to represent Australia" he says.

Unlike many of the clubs they play against, the Uni Blues are not backed by any ethnic community, they welcome anyone, one reason why most players can't speak highly enough of the club.

"One of the attractions of the club is that we don't have the politics of a lot of clubs" said Gill, who is of an Indian background and often tells the other players that he's the best Indian player in the world.

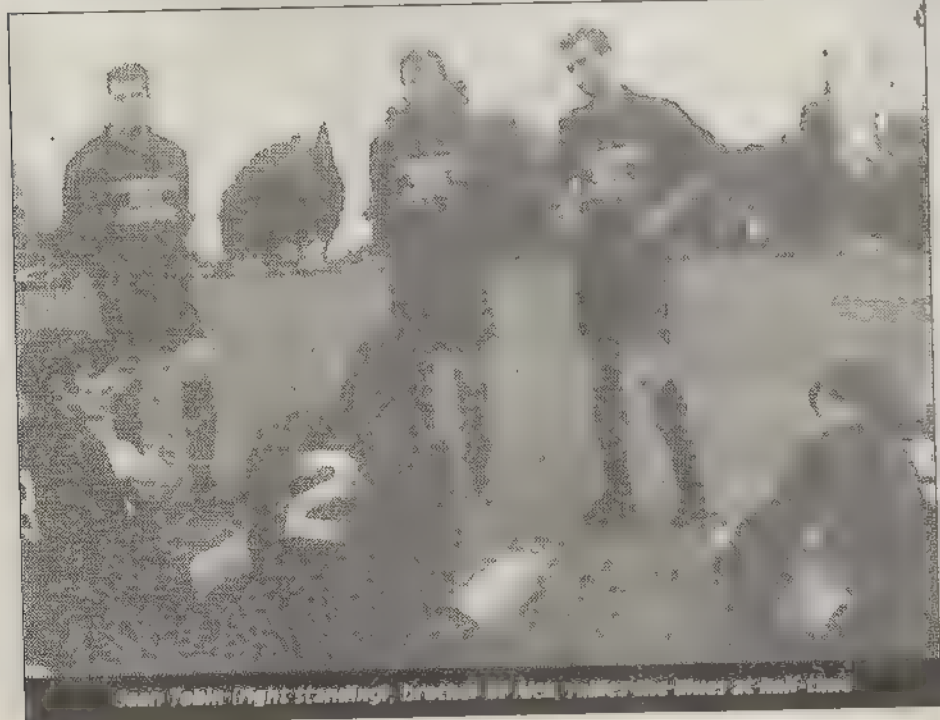
Licciardello very much agrees with what Gill says.

"We're a close knit group, that what helps bring the better results on the park."

We leave the final word to 'Marmie', a loyal clubman of whose like there are so few left.

"We've had players of a lot of different nationalities play for us over the years, it's a very accepting and multicultural club."

"When we play against other clubs, they ask 'what keeps you together?', and really it's a love of playing the game."



Sean Tobin (right) standing, Director of Uni Blues and Soccer Weekly

VICTORIAN LEAGUES



EAT WELL LIVE WELL PREMIER LEAGUE

ROUND 16 DETAILS

Melbourne Raiders 2 (Cuculeski, Gasparini) -
Bentleigh Greens 3 (Lenelis, Drakos, McDonagh)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melb Sharks	16	11	4	1	41	18	37
Preston Lions	16	10	2	4	34	20	32
Green Gully Cavaliers	16	8	6	2	29	17	30
Fawkner Blues	16	8	3	5	27	18	27
Bentleigh Greens	16	6	5	5	30	19	23
Bulleen Inter Kings	16	6	5	5	22	18	23
Melbourne Raiders	16	6	4	6	23	27	22
Altona Magic	16	6	3	7	21	31	21
Altona East Phoenix	16	5	4	7	17	23	19
South Dandenong	16	4	5	7	26	28	17
St Albans Saints	16	5	2	9	17	24	17
Westvale	16	3	6	7	20	35	15
Springvale WB	16	3	4	9	19	29	13
Sunshine Georgies	16	3	3	10	17	36	12

ROUND 17 FIXTURES

Sunday June 6

Port Melbourne Sharks v Altona Magic - kick off 3pm at Anderson Reserve
Preston Lions v St Albans Saints - kick off 3pm at Goodyear Stadium
Fawkner Blues v South Dandenong - kick off 3pm at Smith Reserve
Altona East Phoenix v Melbourne Raiders - kick off 3pm at Paisley Park
Bentleigh Greens v Green Gully Cavaliers - kick off 3pm at Kingston Heath Reserve

MONDAY JUNE 7

Westvale v Springvale White Eagles - kick off 8.15pm (venue to be announced)
Bulleen Inter Kings v Sunshine Georgies - kick off 8.15pm at Veneto Club

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 10

Doncaster Rovers 2 - Westgate 2
Kingston City 0 - Lalor United 3
Western Suburbs 2 - Werribee City 0
Springvale City 1 - Richmond 4
Northcote City 0 - Oakleigh 2
Melbourne City 0 - North Geelong Warriors 0
Heidelberg United v Yarraville Glory (played Monday night)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lalor United	10	8	1	1	27	8	25
Heidelberg United	9	6	2	1	23	13	20
Westgate	10	6	2	2	21	12	20
Oakleigh	10	6	2	2	15	8	20
Western Suburbs	10	4	2	4	14	12	14
Nth Geelong Warriors	10	3	5	2	12	10	14
Doncaster Rovers	10	3	4	3	22	15	13
Kingston City	10	4	1	5	12	20	13
Richmond	10	3	3	4	15	20	12
Northcote City	10	3	2	5	22	22	11
Yarraville Glory	9	3	2	4	11	14	11
Melbourne City	10	3	1	6	16	25	10
Springvale City	10	1	3	6	5	19	6
Werribee City	10	0	2	8	9	26	2

ROUND 11 FIXTURES

Saturday June 5

Yarraville Glory v Springvale City

Sunday June 6

North Geelong Warriors v Lalor United
Oakleigh v Melbourne City
Richmond v Northcote City
Werribee City v Heidelberg United
Westgate v Western Suburbs
Doncaster Rovers v Kingston City

DIVISION 2 - ROUND 10

Frankston Strikers 1 - Altona City 2
Old Scotch Waverley v Frankston Pines - postponed
Geelong 4 - Diamond Valley United 1

CRAZY JOHN'S

MOBILEWORLD COMMUNICATIONS



Croydon City Arrows 1 - Cranbourne Comets 2
Satellite City Rovers 0 - Ringwood City 1
East Richmond 1 - Knox City 1
Essendon 2 - Thomastown/Regent 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essendon	10	6	4	0	25	5	22
Geelong	10	5	3	2	21	19	18
East Richmond	10	5	3	2	18	16	18
Knox City	10	5	2	3	19	10	17
Altona City	10	5	2	3	10	12	17
Frankston Pines	9	4	4	1	26	11	16
Cranbourne Comets	10	4	4	2	19	15	16
Thomastown/Regent	10	3	4	3	19	16	13
Old Scotch Waverley	9	4	1	4	11	15	13
Ringwood City	10	3	3	4	16	23	12
Satellite City Rovers	10	2	2	6	7	22	8
Frankston Strikers	10	1	4	5	12	17	7
Croydon City Arrows	10	1	4	5	11	17	7
Diamond Valley United	10	0	2	8	11	27	2

ROUND 11 FIXTURES

Saturday June 5

Thomastown/Regent v Frankston Pines
Knox City v Essendon
Ringwood City v East Richmond
Cranbourne Comets v Satellite City Rovers
Diamond Valley United v Croydon City Arrows
Altona City v Geelong
Frankston Strikers v Old Scotch Waverley

DIVISION 3 - ROUND 10

South Springvale 1 - Williamstown 0
Pascoe Vale 2 - Mooroolbark 3
Moreland City 2 - South Wantima 3
Stonnington City 4 - Keilor Park 1
Laverton Park 1 - Fitzroy City 1
Banyule City v Broadmeadows City - postponed
North Coburg United 1 - Bell Park 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stonnington City	10	7	2	1	28	13	23
South Wantima	10	6	2	2	19	11	20
North Coburg United	10	5	3	2	17	9	18
Fitzroy City	10	4	5	1	23	16	17
Moreland City	10	5	2	3	20	13	17
South Springvale	10	4	5	1	12	6	17
Williamstown	10	4	2	4	20	19	14
Laverton Park	10	3	4	3	17	15	13
Mooroolbark	10	3	3	4	11	19	12
Pascoe Vale	10	3	2	5	15	22	11
Keilor Park	10	3	1	6	11	19	10
Bell Park	10	2	3	5	10	16	9
Broadmeadows City	9	1	2	6	9	21	5
Banyule City	9	0	2	7	8	21	2

ROUND 11 FIXTURES

Saturday June 5

Bell Park v Mooroolbark
Broadmeadows City v North Coburg United
Fitzroy City v Banyule City
Keilor Park v Laverton Park
South Wantima v Stonnington City
Williamstown v Moreland City
South Springvale v Pascoe Vale

DIVISION 4 - ROUND 10

Seaford United 3 - Sandringham City 4

Lalor v Langwarrin - postponed

Lyndale United 2 - Nunawading City 0

Clifton Hill United 1 - Melton 2

Sunbury United 1 - Corio 1

Croxton Park 2 - Keysborough 2

Chelsea 0 - Geelong Rangers 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Langwarrin	9	9	0	0	35	8	27
Sandringham City	10	7	1	2	38	20	22
Lyndale United	10	6	3	1	22	13	21
Croxton Park	10	4	5	1	23	16	17
Sunbury United	10	5	1	4	21	17	16
Seaford United	10	5	1	4	21	20	16

Lalor	9	4	2	3	19	18	14
Melton	10	4	2	4	15	17	14
Keysborough	10	3	2	5	23	17	11
Corio	10	2	3	5	11	22	9
Clifton Hill United	10	2	2	6	16	26	8
Nunawading City	10	2	1	7	9	26	7
Geelong Rangers	10	1	3	6	11	24	6
Chelsea	10	1	2	7	10	30	5

ROUND 11 FIXTURES

Saturday June 5

Geelong Rangers v Langwarrin
Keysborough v Chelsea
Corio v Croxton Park
Melton v Sunbury United
Nunawading City v Clifton Hill United
Sandringham City v Lyndale United
Seaford United v Lalor

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE

Division 1 - Round 8

Monbulk 0 - North Sunshine Eagles 2
Springvale Condors 1 - Templestowe Eagles 1
Mitcham United 2 - Dandenong 1
Sydenham Park 2 - Brunswick City 2
South Caulfield 0 - Endeavour United 4
Morwell Pegasus 3 - Riversdale 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Endeavour United	8	8	0	0	25	3	24
Morwell Pegasus	8	6	1	1	20	6	19
Riversdale	8	5	1	2	18	12	16
Brunswick City	8	4	3	1	11	8	15
Sydenham Park	8	3	3	2	19	17	12
Mitcham United	8	4	0	4	13	14	12
North Sunshine Eagles	8	3	1	4	18	23	10
Dandenong	8	2	1	5	12	15	7
Templestowe Eagles	8	1	2	5	13	18	5
Monbulk	8	1	2	5	8	14	5
South Caulfield	8	1	1	6	12	23	4
Springvale Condors	8	1	3	4	5	21	3

ROUND 9 FIXTURES

Saturday June 5

Endeavour United v Morwell Pegasus
Riversdale v Monbulk
Brunswick City v South Caulfield
Dandenong v Sydenham Park
Templestowe Eagles v Mitcham United
North Sunshine Eagles v Springvale Condors

DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST -

ROUND 8

Hoppers Crossing 0 - Broadmeadows United 2
Melbourne University 2 - South Yarra 1
Somerton City 4 - Glenroy 1
Ballarat 1 - Mill Park 2
Elwood City 3 - University of Melbourne 2
Meadow Park 4 - Keon Park 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hoppers Crossing	8	6	0	2	24	13	18
Glenroy	8	5	1	2	18	11	16
Ballarat	8	4	3	1	12	7	15
Somerton City	8	4	2	2	22	10	14
Elwood City	8	4	1	3	17	18	13
Uni of Melbourne	8	3	3	2	20	16	12
Melbourne University	8	3	2	3	15	18	11
Mill Park	8	3	1	4	17	19	10
Meadow Park	8	1	4	3	11	19	7
Keon Park	8	1	3	4	13	22	6
Broadmeadows United	8	2	2	4	14	21	5
South Yarra	8	0	2	6	6	15	2

ROUND 9 FIXTURES

Saturday June 5

Keon Park v South Yarra
University of Melbourne v Meadow Park
Mill Park v Elwood City
Glenroy v Ballarat
Broadmeadows United v Somerton City
Hoppers Crossing v Melbourne University

DIVISION 2 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 8

Heatherton United 4 - Newborough/Yallourn 3
Braeside United 1 - Brandon Park 2
Dingley City 0 - Clayton 3
Waverley Wanderers 4 - Dandenong Inter 1
Monash University 1 - Noble Park 1
Doveton 2 - Ashburton 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Waverley Wanderers	8	7	1	0	26	6	22
Clayton	8	7	0	1	18	5	21
Doveton	8	4	2	2	10	6	14
Heatherton United	8	4	1	3	16	16	13
Brandon Park	8	4	1	3	9	9	13
Newborough/Yallourn	8	3	3	2	20	16	12
Ashburton	8	3	1	4	22	16	10
Dingley City	8	3	2	3	13	17	8
Monash University	8	2	2	4	11	22	8
Noble Park	8	2	1	5	10	17	7
Braeside United	8	1	6	1	6	16	3
Dandenong Inter	8	0	2	6	2	26	2

ROUND 9 FIXTURES

Saturday June 5

Noble Park v Doveton
Ashburton v Heatherton United
Dandenong Inter v Monash University
Clayton v Waverley Wanderers
Brandon Park v Dingley City
Newborough/Yallourn v Braeside United

DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST -

ROUND 8

West Preston 1 - Watsonia Heights 1
North Reservoir 0 - La Trobe University 0
Whittlesea United 2 - Brimbank 1
Flemington Falcons 2 - Darebin United 1
Northern United 2 - North Glenroy 4
Keilor United 0 - Brimbank City 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Glenroy	8	7	0	1	22	8	21
Whittlesea United	8	6	0	2	15	9	18
Keilor United	8	4	2	2	20	13	14
Brimbank City	8	3	4	1	12	11	13
North Reservoir	8	3	4	1	7	8	13
Darebin United	8	4	0	4	18	11	12
La Trobe University	8	3	1	4	14	15	10
Brimbank	8	3	1	4	13	16	10
Flemington Falcons	8	2	2	4	10	15	8
Northern United	8	1	2	5	13	19	5
Watsonia Heights	8	1	2	5	11	19	5
West Preston	8	1	2	5	12	23	5

ROUND 9 FIXTURES

Sunday June 6

Keilor United v La Trobe University
North Glenroy v Brimbank City
Darebin United v Northern United
Brimbank v Flemington Falcons
Watsonia Heights v Whittlesea United
West Preston v North Reservoir

DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST -

ROUND 8

Rowville Eagles 4 - Collingwood City 2
Moreland United 1 - Noble Park United 1
Newport United 1 - North Caulfield 5
Beaumaris 1 - Parkmore 2
Ivanhoe United 2 - Old Camberwell Grammar 0
Endeavour Hills 4 - Thornbury United 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ivanhoe United	8	5	1	2	14	6	16
Moreland United	8	4	4	0	16	10	16
Endeavour Hills	8	4	2	2	22	14	14
Noble Park United	8	4	2	2	14	11	14
North Caulfield	7	4	1	2	16	10	13
Rowville Eagles	8	3	2	3	17	15	11
Thornbury United	7	3	2	2	14	13	11
Collingwood City	8	2	3	3	19	17	9
Old Camberwell Gram	8	2	3	3	7	11	9
Beaumaris	8	2	2	4	10	12	8
Parkmore	8	1	2	5	13	26	5
Newport United	8	1	0	7	10	27	3



SOCCER CANBERRA

UNIT 2/3 PHIPPS CLOSE, DEAKIN, ACT. 2600

PH: 06 260 4000 FAX: 06 260 4999

Internet Home Page HTTP: www.ACTSE.ORG.AU

By Greg Welsh

CRUNCH TIME FOR CANBERRA COSMOS

The 1999/2000 NSL season is shaping up as a make-or-break season for the Canberra Cosmos according to coach Tom Sermanni.

'This is our last year coming up now of a guaranteed position in the NSL,' Sermanni says. 'I think from the end of this year results will be important and I think the progress from the team — from a financial and a stability and a crowd aspect — all those factors will come in to play.' 'We've got the other things in place.'

What we've been lacking is on-field success. If we don't get that, then I don't know if it will be the NSL, it'll probably be the people associated with the club might turn around and have to say "is this really worthwhile?"

Sermanni took over at the helm of the Cosmos after Round 12 of the competition with the Canberra team about to set a NSL record for the longest-ever losing streak.

Indeed, in that bleak hour the Cosmos were without a point — 10 adrift of their nearest rival — and had conceded 31 goals to their own six.

A form reversal under Sermanni's charge saw the NSL strugglers collect 15 points in the remainder of the season, but was still not enough to avoid the wooden spoon heading to the

capital for a third consecutive year.

Sermanni's obvious goal is to ensure the form turn-around continues on into next season, a task not helped by a restrictive-budget which has seen a number of players depart the club, including Olyroo Ivan Zelic, Leo Langone, club stalwart Norman Kelly (who last season brought up 75 appearances for the Cosmos), and sweeper Amarildo Miglietti who was voted "Most Consistent Player of the Year".

Add to that list the uncertainty over star players Peter Buljan and Lindsay Wilson who are each seeking overseas contracts, and you start to get an idea of the challenge confronting the Cosmos' coach.

Yet Sermanni remains optimistic. 'There was a general improvement over the second half of the season,' he says. 'If we can organise things properly and have a good pre-season, then I think we'll be more competitive next year.'

Sermanni is also confident that,

provided the team gets a few wins under its belt, the crowds will start returning to Bruce Stadium.

'We've had a hard core of two thousand supporters,' he says. 'And when you consider at one stage the team lost 16 games in a row, and went 23 games without a win, to have that core of supporters I think is quite amazing, because you take any team in the National League and give them a similar performance then I don't think you'd have that many people at the game.'

In the long term, Sermanni would like to see the Cosmos develop a youth team to compliment the Academy side, and also have a Canberra-based club compete in the NSW Super League.

'If we had that structure in place, ultimately it would lead to greater stability and greater success of the team because we would then be able to produce players through a logical system,' he says.

'At this moment in time, we've got an Academy team which caters for under-17 level and the Cosmos first team. Nothing in-between. Therefore we don't have any kind of development path to bring players through.'

'So ultimately that's the aim, but it's a chicken-and-the-egg thing.'

The unfortunate reality, because of how the team's done in previous years, the reality is now our first and foremost priority is to get on-field success for the first-team. In the short term these other things, they are of importance, but they're not of the critical importance that on-field results are.'

Sermanni, who coached the Australian women's soccer team at the 1995 World Cup, has kept a close eye on the Matildas as they prepare for next month's tournament in the US. He recently turned out in an over-35s side against his former charges, and was impressed with their ability and dedication.

'I think it's gone terrific,' he says. 'The difference between now and the last World Cup is suddenly there's a team that walks onto the world stage confident of holding their own and getting results.'

'When we went to the World Cup the last time it was a whole new ball game for our players and they were a little bit

over-awed by it, understandably.

Their outlook and how they approach the game and their attitude is all very much professional now.'

Sermanni attributes the change to the recent successes of the Ansett Summer Series, the Institute program and the increased profile of women's soccer.

'The people that have been involved probably don't notice the progression as much. For me, who's been away and come back, I really notice a significant difference,' he says.

When returning to Australia from Japan, Sermanni also expected to notice a big difference in the calibre of players in the men's game, but says he was pleasantly surprised by the current state of Australian soccer.

'When you consider the number of players who are playing outside the country, I think it's actually very good,' he says.

'If I were to go back to Japan and took 80 or 90 of those players from the J-League and took them overseas, that would be a significant drop-off in the standard. And they've also got three overseas players in all their teams — quality players.'

The first wet weekend of the 1999 ACT Premier League season played havoc with the form-guide, as the top three teams all failed to record victories on Sunday.

The Weston Creek Royals, situated equal-second before Sunday's match, went down 3-1 to fourth-placed Gungahlin Juventus at Woden Park in a game firmly divided by the half-time break.

Juventus ran riot in the first stanza, with the midfield combination of John Glass, Yosp Zamora and Aidan Griffiths creating plenty of opportunities against a strangely lacklustre Royals line-up.

The first of these chances came in the 11th minute when Glass sent Griffiths into the Royals' penalty box. But despite turning two defenders the 17-year-old was only able to find the side-netting with his low shot.

Four minutes later, Glass collected a loose ball twenty metres out from goal and sent a rocket past Royals' keeper Troy Boots to bring up the first score of the game.

Juventus threatened to run away with the match five minutes later when Craig Rankine's free-kick was neatly turned into the Royals' net by Brad Smith.

But despite their domination over the next twenty minutes, the nearest Juventus came to a third goal was when Glass drive smacked against the left hand upright in the 35th minute.

When the teams emerged after the half-time interval, you could have been forgiven for thinking you had been transported to another game. The Royals immediately went on the attack, and Juventus seemed to have very little to say about it.

Royals' forward Peter Hader missed an excellent opportunity in the 51st minute when he skied his shot after an excellent headed-pass from striking-partner Steve Lazzari found him close to goal.

But Hader made amends twenty minutes later when his right-foot shot found the back of the net to bring the Royals back within striking distance.

For the next twenty minutes Hader and Lazzari tore apart the Juventus defence but were unable to beat goalkeeper Elias Oikarinen, who made a number of outstanding saves.

After one of these saves — a diving effort to deny a Hader header — Royals' midfielder Michael Sermeno was sent from the field for allegedly making a late

challenge on the keeper as he lay on the ground.

Oikarinen recovered to make two outstanding saves in one-on-one situations, as first Yushi Sato, and then Hader broke clear of the Juventus defence, before a George Cattinich goal nine minutes from full-time made sure of a Juventus victory.

Juventus coach Billy Wilcox later praised his side's first-half performance as the best he had seen all season, but admitted his side fell away badly in the second period.

'I think we should have finished it in the first half,' he said. 'I knew they would come back at us — they had to. They sat back in the first-half and let us do everything we wanted to do.'

**In other games, leaders Belconnen United were held to a 2-2 draw by the struggling University of Canberra at the University ovals.

NSL import Marko Peranovic's first-half goal for Belconnen was cancelled out by University striker Dominic Bartone's seventh goal of the season.

Scott Manson once more put Belconnen ahead in the second-half only for Alan Rankine to equalise with a wonderful shot into the top left hand corner.

Peranovic nearly stole all three points with only minutes remaining, but his header rebounded off the crossbar to leave the teams level.

**Canberra Deakin continued their excellent recent form to record a 2-1 victory and hand Monaro their first loss of the season.

Goals to Ben Derghan and Paul Ivancic set up the win for Deakin despite a late goal from Monaro captain Danny Macor.

*** Burns Club came back from a 1-0 deficit to overpower the Queanbeyan City Lions 2-1 in their bottom-of-the-ladder clash at Greenway Oval.

Second-half goals to Sean Madden and Daniel Park consigned the Lions to their seventh consecutive loss despite Danny Burt's third goal from sweeper.

ACT PREMIER LEAGUE

Division 1

Canberra Olympic	4	Capital City Suns	1
Uni of Canberra	2	Belconnen United	2
Burns Club	2	Queanbeyan City Lions	1
Monaro	1	Canberra Deakin	2
Weston Creek Royals	1	Gungahlin Juventus	3

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belconnen United	7	5	2	0	0	25	6	19
Monaro	7	4	2	0	1	25	9	16
Weston Creek R	7	4	2	0	1	17	10	16
Gungahlin Juv	7	4	1	0	2	16	13	14
Canberra Deakin	7	3	1	1	2	13	8	12
Capital City Suns	7	3	1	0	3	16	13	11
Canberra Olympic	7	3	0	1	3	10	8	10
Burns Club	7	2	0	0	5	7	24	6
Uni of Canberra	7	1	1	0	5	13	21	5
Queanbeyan City	7	0	0	0	7	9	39	0

Under 23s: Canberra Olympic 6 Capital City Suns 0, Uni of Canberra 4 Belconnen United 0, Burns Club 9 Queanbeyan City Lions 0, Monaro 0 Canberra Deakin 5, Weston Creek Royals 2 Gungahlin Juventus 1.

Under 19s: Canberra Olympic 1 Capital City Suns 2, Uni of Canberra 1 Belconnen United 5, Burns Club 3 Queanbeyan City Lions 4, Monaro 0 Canberra Deakin 4, Weston Creek Royals 6 Gungahlin Juventus 5.

Division 2

ANU	0	Tuggeranong Utd	2
O'Connor Knights	1	Sabres FC	1
ADFA	1	Cooma	2
Belwest Foxes	0	White Eagles	3

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
O'Connor Knights	8	7	1	0	0	17	2	23
Cooma	8	6	0	0	2	16	14	18
Tuggeranong	8	5	1	0	2	20	11	17
Belwest	8	4	1	0	3	21	16	14
White Eagle	8	2	2	0	4	10	11	10
ANU	7	2	1	0	4	14	13	8
Sabres FC	8	0	3	0	5	7	24	6
ADFA	7	0	1	0	6	5	19	2

Reserves: ANU 5 Tuggeranong United 0, O'Connor Knights 2 Canberra Sabres 0, ADFA 2 Cooma 2, Belwest Foxes 7 White Eagles 3.

Points: O'Connor Knights 21, Tuggeranong 18, Belwest 15, ANU 14, White Eagles 11, ADFA 8, Sabres FC 3, Cooma 2.

ACT STATE LEAGUE

Division 1: Uni of Canberra 0 Valley Blues 1, Southern Spirit 2 Monaro 4, Canberra City 0 Burns Club 2, Belconnen 4 Ginninderra 3.

Division 2: Tuggeranong 2 Juventus 2, ANU 4 Belwest 4, Canberra City 3 Burns 4, Belconnen 1 Ginninderra 1, Uni of Canberra 3 Valley Blues 0.

Division 3: Uni of Canberra 5 Weston Creek 6, Uni of Canberra 1 Fyshwick 8, ANU 0 Harmonie 0, Tuggeranong 5 Canberra City 1, Valley Blues 5 ADFA 5.

Division 4: Uni of Canberra 3 Fyshwick 1, ANU 2 Harmonie 0, Uni of Canberra 4 Weston Creek 1, Trojans 3 ANU 3, Valley Blues 3 ADFA 0.

Masters: Tuggeranong 2 Uni of Canberra 4, Kambah Old Boys 1 White Eagles 2, St Francis 3 ANU 4.

Youth: Southern Spirit 1 Radford 2, Tuggeranong 11 Belconnen 0.

Premier League next Sunday.

12.00pm

Belconnen United v Monaro
Hawker

Burns v Canberra Deakin
Woden Park

Queanbeyan City v Weston Creek Royals
Riverside Stadium

Gungahlin Juventus v Canberra Olympic
Mayura

Capital City Suns v Uni of Canberra
O'Connor

First Grade 2pm.

Under 23s noon.

Under 19s 10am

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Following the 1998 World Cup, the 1998 World Cup was the first time a player was named captain.



They got something: The 1998 World Cup was the first time a player was named captain.

ITALY

VIALLI BACK FOR MORE ITALIANS

English Premier League club Chelsea has reached a 52 billion lire deal to sign Italian players Luigi Di Biagio and Marco Delvecchio from AS Roma, La Repubblica newspaper reported on Saturday.

It said the two sides had agreed to transfer fees of 17 billion lire for midfielder Di Biagio and 35 billion lire for striker Delvecchio, Roma's top scorer last season with 18 league goals.

But the paper said personal terms had not been agreed upon and Delvecchio was unsure if he wanted to leave Italy (he has since denied the Chelsea offer).

La Repubblica said Chelsea officials

were in Rome recently to discuss the transfers with the Serie A club and also talked to Lazio about taking Spanish midfielder Ivan De La Pena on loan next season.

De La Pena joined Lazio from Barcelona a year ago but has failed to establish a place in the Rome side's first team.

Juventus denied on Saturday it had reached a deal to sign French international Nicolas Anelka of Arsenal and Martin Djetou of Monaco.

"On Anelka there is nothing," Juventus vice-president Roberto Bettega told reporters at a sponsorship

presentation at Monza race track.

"We haven't signed either of them," he added when asked about reports Juve was also trying to sign midfielder Djetou.

"When we do something we announce it and we present the players."

Anelka has been linked to both Real Madrid and Olympique Marseille as well as Juventus in recent months.

Italian newspapers said in March the Turin club had offered Arsenal 35 billion lire for the teenage striker, who is greatly admired by Juve playmaker and French international Zinedine Zidane.

Rance's World Cup-winning captain Didier Deschamps has hinted he too could be interested in moving to Chelsea.

The midfielder will leave Juventus this summer and admits Monaco is his first choice.

However, he added: "I don't want to go to England, except maybe to London. Then why not finish with Marcel Desailly, as it was with him that I started at Nantes?"

Edwin van der Sar, Ajax Amsterdam and Holland national team goalkeeper, kicked off a likely reshuffle of Europe's top netminders on Thursday by confirming that he is joining Italian Serie A side Juventus next season.

Van der Sar, 28, was the only current Dutch international remaining in the Ajax squad and the Dutch club did not say how much Juventus would pay, but sources put it at around \$10 million.

"Ajax respects that he wants to take a further step in his career, but is sorry that one of the best 'keepers in the world is leaving the club," Ajax said in a statement, adding his decision to leave had been amicable.

The club did not say who would be



SERIE A FINAL STANDINGS

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
AC Milan-c l	34	20	10	4	59	34	70
Lazio-l	34	20	9	5	65	31	69
Fiorentina-l	34	16	8	10	55	41	56
AC Parma-l	34	15	10	9	55	36	55
AS Roma-u	34	15	9	10	69	49	54
Juventus-p	34	15	9	10	42	36	54
Udinese-p	34	16	6	12	52	52	54
Inter Milan-p	34	13	7	14	49	54	46
Bologna-p	34	11	11	12	44	47	44
Bari	34	9	15	10	39	44	42
Venezia	34	1	9	14	38	45	42
Cagliari	34	1	8	15	49	50	41
Piacenza	34	11	8	15	48	50	41
Perugia	34	11	6	17	43	61	39
Salernitana-r	34	10	8	16	37	51	38
Sampdoria-r	34	9	10	16	38	55	37
Venezia-r	34	8	9	17	27	47	33
Empoli-x-r	34	4	10	20	26	63	20

c-champion

l-Champions League berth

u-UEFA Cup berth

p-in playoff for UEFA Cup berth

r-relegated to Serie B

x-2 points deducted by disciplinary commission

replacing Van der Sar, who had a contract until 2001.

Van der Sar will replace Juventus' Italian international Angelo Peruzzi, who has been reported in Italian newspapers to be heading for Inter Milan, to be coached next season by former Juventus boss Marcello Lippi.

If that move happens, it is likely to leave Inter's Italian World Cup goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca looking for a new club while Ajax and newly-crowned European champions Manchester United are seeking new goalkeepers.

Van der Sar had been linked to United or to Italy's European Cup Winners' Cup champions Lazio, whose goalkeeper Luca Marchegiani is now 33 years old.

But instead, Van der Sar joins compatriot and midfielder Edgar Davids at Juventus and his move extends the long list of Dutch internationals playing abroad.

Serie A club Venezia said it had appointed former Sampdoria coach Luciano Spalletti to take charge next season.

Spalletti will take over from Walter Novellino, who has said he will accept an offer to move to former champion Napoli, now of the second division.

Napoli sacked coach Renzo Ulivieri following its failure to gain promotion from Serie B.

Spalletti parted company with Sampdoria on Sunday after he failed to prevent the side from slipping out of the top flight for the first time in 17 years.

The Venezia side he inherits from Novellino finished 11th in Serie A — high enough to propel it into the Intertoto Cup.



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EUROPE

GIL GOES OVER THE HILL

Jesus Gil, controversial president of Spanish Primera Liga club Atletico Madrid, denied that he had broken Spanish football rules of paying bonuses to Real Mallorca and Real Betis players for beating fellow relegation battlers Villareal and Extremadura.

A privately-owned Spanish radio station Cadena Cope had alleged that 65-year-old Gil had paid up to 40 million pesetas (\$254,000) to the players of both teams for their wins, which eased the chances of the nine-time Spanish champions having to endure the humiliation of facing a relegation play-off.

The Spanish Football Federation expressly forbids any such 'bonuses' to players although several directors of league clubs allege that it is common practice.

"I didn't pay any money to anyone. I'm not that stupid," Gil, who is facing trial for embezzling 450 million pesetas (\$2.9 million) from municipal funds for his team, told another radio station 'Voz'.

Despite Extremadura and Villareal's defeats Atletico, who reached this season's UEFA Cup quarter-finals, are just six points above the play-offs with three matches to play.

Yugoslav international Darko Kovacevic has said that he wants to leave Real Sociedad for Atletico Madrid.

"Everyone knows that Atletico are interested in me and I want to join them. I don't want to say anymore because we are still talking and negotiating," he told reporters.

Kovacevic is seeking a move after rebuilding his career in San Sebastian following a disastrous 1995-96 season at England's Sheffield Wednesday.

"I have had three good years here but I am ambitious

and I want to play for a big club.

Atletico fits the bill -- its a good team and a big club," added the World Cup striker.

Raffaele Longo, who plays for Serie A outfit Parma, has been seriously injured in a car accident, Italian police said.

The 22-year-old lost control of the car he was driving on the motorway between Rome and Naples and the vehicle overturned.

Longo was initially taken to Frascati hospital, where he was diagnosed as suffering from head and neck injuries and transferred by helicopter to a specialised unit in Rome's Forlanini Hospital.

Angry Marseille fans have attacked central defender Cyrille Domoraud because he signed for Italian Serie A side Inter Milan next season.

Domoraud, 28, and defender William Gallas were not seriously injured in the assault by two fans, which took place during the team's private training session at their La Commanderie grounds.

Journalists were threatened if they reported the incident and the recording material of a radio reporter was smashed.

Marseille coach Roland Courbis, said that it was time for the violence to end. Marseille and Paris St Germain were fined \$16,000 last week following crowd trouble at the match between the clubs on May 4.

Courbis said Gallas should be fit for the clubs last game of the season against Nantes. Marseille is second in the French league, one point behind leaders Bordeaux.

HOLLAND AND ITALY NAME SQUADS

Wim Jonk will be part of the Dutch squad traveling to Brazil for two friendlies next month, the Dutch F.A. said.

The 32 year old Sheffield Wednesday midfielder has been called in by coach Frank Rijkaard to replace Internazionale's Aron Winter who has pulled out for family reasons.

Holland will face Brazil on June 5 in Salvador and on June 8 in Goiania. A return fixture has been set for October 9.

Revised Dutch squad:

Goalkeepers: Edwin van der Sar (Ajax Amsterdam), Sander Westerveld (Vitesse Arnhem)

Defenders: Frank de Boer, Michael Reiziger (both Barcelona), Bert Konterman, Kees van Wonderen (both Feyenoord), Andre Ooijer (PSV Eindhoven), Marc van Hintum (Vitesse Arnhem), Frank Verlaet (VfB Stuttgart).

Midfielders: Wim Jonk (Sheffield Wednesday), Edgar Davids (Juventus), Giovanni van Bronckhorst (Glasgow Rangers), Phillip Cocu, Ronald de Boer (both Barcelona), Clarence Seedorf (Real Madrid), Patrick Pauwe (Feyenoord)

Strikers: Boudewijn Zenden, Patrick Kluivert (both Barcelona), Peter van Vossen (Feyenoord), Ruud van Nistelrooij (PSV Eindhoven), Pierre van Hooijdonk (Nottingham Forest)

Italian coach Dino Zoff has named the following squad for the European championship group one qualifiers against Wales in Bologna on June 5 and Switzerland in Lausanne on June 9:

Goalkeepers: Gianluigi Buffon (Parma), Francesco Toldo (Fiorentina)

Defenders: Fabio Cannavaro (Parma), Paolo Maldini (AC Milan), Paolo Negro, Alessandro Nesta and Giuseppe Pancaro (all Lazio), Christian Panucci (Real Madrid)

Midfielders: Gianluca Pessotto (Juventus), Demetrio Albertini and Massimo Ambrosini (both AC Milan), Dino Baggio and Diego Fuser (both Parma), Antonio Conte (Juventus), Eusebio Di Francesco (AS Roma), Giuliano Gianichedda (Udinese), Gianluca Zambrotta (Bari)

Forwards: Enrico Chiesa (Parma), Filippo Inzaghi (Juventus), Vincenzo Montella (Sampdoria), Francesco Totti (AS Roma), Christian Vieri (Lazio)



Australia's own Christian Vieri is to lead Italy's charge for qualification for Euro 2000.

WILD BOY RETURNS TO BRAZIL

Brazilian World Cup striker Edmundo is expected to re-sign for his former club Vasco da Gama.

Edmundo, dubbed 'the animal' for his on and off the pitch antics, said he expected to end his career at Vasco da Gama -- he is expected to make his debut against Botafogo.

The striker had been a controversial figure at his Italian club Fiorentina and some blame him for his club's failure to capture the Serie A title.

The Florence-based outfit had led Serie A for much of the campaign but plunged down the table in the last three months of the season, notably after Edmundo flew back to Rio to play the drums in a marching samba band at the carnival.

He was also not popular with some of his team mates. He did not speak with Portuguese star Manuel Rui Costa either on or off the pitch while Fiorentina's Argentina's Gabriel Batistuta lambasted him for his trip to Rio at a critical stage of the season.

Pat Quigley, Football Association of Ireland (FAI) president, slammed UEFA's order that Ireland's group eight European Championship qualifying tie against Yugoslavia go ahead on June 5.

In a statement UEFA pledged to "track the developments on a daily basis in order to guaran-

tee the safety of all concerned."

"We had argued that this match should have been postponed until some form of normality would return to the Balkans," said Quigley.

"It will not be easy for the players of both Ireland and Yugoslavia to play a match in these circumstances."

"Many of our supporters have expressed their concern about the staging of this fixture at this particular time. And I fully understand that concern."

"There is always the danger of demonstrations. The FAI is not a political body. We cater for football and do not like being used as political pawns."

"It is incredible that while hundreds of Kosovar refugees are arriving in Ireland, we are being asked to stage a match against Yugoslavia. This decision is all about politics and sadly not football."

The Irish Government has already decided it will not have any representatives at the game.

Russian international Alexander Panov struck twice within two minutes early in the second half to lead Zenit St. Petersburg to a 3-1 win over Dynamo Moscow in the Russian Cup final.

The St Petersburg side overcame a sluggish and soggy pitch at Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium with three goals in a nine minute span to clinch the trophy for the first time in 55 years.



Veteran Dynamo striker Nikolai Pisarev gave the militia side a 1-0 lead with his 25th-minute goal, after team mate Maxim Romashchenko had hit the post from close range moments earlier.

The Muscovites had a big edge for most of the first half but after the interval Zenit came back with a mission.

"We had a big pep talk in our locker room and we came out with a different attitude," Panov said. "We didn't let a bad start nor the hostile crowd bother us in the second half."

Panov unleashed a powerful drive from the edge of the box to equalise in the 57th minute. Just two minutes later he went around a slow Dynamo defence, which was missing six regulars through injuries and suspensions, to put Zenit ahead.

Roman Maksimychuk sealed Zenit's win when he beat Dynamo goalkeeper Yevgeny Plotnikov with a rising shot to the near post in the 66th minute.

Dynamo Moscow's defender Erik Yakhimovich received a five-match ban for punching an opponent in a Russian premier division game, league officials said.

"We will not tolerate such behavior," said a spokesman for the Russian Professional Football League.

EUROPE

FINAL DAY FLURRY IN EURO LEAGUES



Bordeaux clinched its first French title since 1987 in dramatic style on Saturday, scoring a stoppage time goal to win 3-2 at Paris St. Germain on the last day of the season.

Pascal Feindouno, a second-half substitute, scored the precious goal just as the title seemed to be heading to Marseille.

The Guinea-born 18-year-old latched on to a pass from Lilian Laslandes and, with the championship at stake, calmly slid the ball under Bernard Lama and into the net.

Runnerup Marseille, which began the night one point behind Bordeaux, won 1-0 at Nantes as Bordeaux players and supporters began celebrating in Paris.

Bordeaux twice took and lost the lead in a thrilling climax to the season.

In a scrappy match, Sylvain Wiltord, this season's top first division marksman with 22 goals, opened the scoring in the 19th minute.

Looking suspiciously offside, the striker latched on to a pass wide on the left before charging toward goal and curling the ball just inside the post from 10 yards.

Bruno Rodriguez bundled in an equalizer on the hour.

But Wiltord restored the lead within two minutes, connecting to a delicate chip from Ali Benarbia.

But with ten minutes on the clock it looked like Bordeaux would be denied the title when PSG's Brazilian striker Adailton headed in unmarked from eight yards.

PSG goalkeeper Lama then made a brilliant save in the 87th minute from a header by Ivan Perez before Feindouno struck.

PSG's intense rivalry with Marseille created a bizarre atmosphere at the Parc des Princes, packed with 45,000 spectators, where home fans were clearly desperate for a Bordeaux title win.

Many PSG supporters wore the yellow and blue shirt of Parma, the team which beat Marseille in the recent UEFA Cup final.

The curious scene was set in the third minute, when home fans cheered as PSG striker Rodriguez, unmarked four yards from goal, skied wildly over the bar.

Bordeaux's winner was greeted with delight from both sets of fans.

The title triumph is doubly sweet for Elie Baup's team.

Bordeaux — French champion in 1950, 1984, 1985 and 1987 — was found guilty of illegally diverting funds to players and relegated from the first division in 1991.

Bordeaux and Marseille have been in total charge of the French championship this season, having occupied the top two places since October.

Since then, they have been well clear of the pack, but never more than four points apart, exchanging the leadership on an almost weekly

basis.

In other action, Lyon beat Strasbourg 3-2 to secure third place and ensure a place in the qualifying round of next season's European champions league.

Monaco, a 1-0 winner against Lorient thanks to a Victor Ikpeba goal, ends fourth and will play in the UEFA Cup.

Guy Roux's Auxerre saved itself from the drop with a 2-0 win against Rennes.

Lorient is relegated on goal difference.

In other matches Saturday: **Lens 3, Toulouse 1; Metz 1, Le Havre 0; Montpellier 3, Bastia 0; Sochaux 1, Nancy 1.**

Two goals from Argentine Claudio Lopez and another from Gaizka Mendieta gave Valencia a 3-0 victory over Oviedo on Saturday, keeping the team in running for second place in the Spanish league and the coveted European Champions League berth.

Mendieta successfully converted a penalty in the 43rd minute to give Valencia the lead 20 minutes after Oviedo was reduced to 10 men when Yugoslav Albert Nadj was sent off. The second goal came from a blistering shot by Lopez in the 59th and Lopez completed the scoring with a second penalty in the 75th.

Also on Saturday, already crowned league champion Barcelona cruised to a 3-1 victory at mid-table Athletic Bilbao, getting two goals from Brazilian Rivaldo and a third from Dutch striker Patrick Kluivert.



Kluivert's goal came in the fifth minute, taking a ball from Rivaldo and dribbling around keeper Manolo Esteban to score into an open goal.

Athletic scored their only goal when Francisco Ferreira beat two defenders to put home the equalizer in the 50th.

But Barcelona went one up again in the 64th when Rivaldo converted a penalty awarded after Portuguese midfielder Luis Figo was brought down in the box by Felipe Gurendez, who was sent off.

Rivaldo added his second in the 88th, giving him a share of the league lead with 23 with Real Madrid's Raul Gonzalez. Athletic's coach Luis Fernandez watched the final minutes of the game from behind the barrier after receiving a red card for unsportsmanlike conduct.

FC Kaiserslautern's collapse Saturday sent a surprised Borussia Dortmund into the Champions League qualifying round for next season and demoted a stunned FC Nuremberg.

Fourth-place Kaiserslautern needed a victory or draw to seal a slot in the Champions Cup next year and were level at 1-1 against Eintracht Frankfurt with 21 minutes to play on the Bundesliga's final day.

But then Thomas Sobotzik scored in the 69th minute for Frankfurt, substitute Marco Gebhardt 10 minutes later and Kaiserslautern fell apart en route to a 5-1 blasting by the relegation-threatened club.

"My players completely surrendered — that shouldn't be allowed to happen," said an angry Kaiserslautern coach, Otto Rehagel.

Fifth-place Wolfsburg's 6-1 at the hands of Duisburg also promoted the cause of Dortmund, unexpectedly putting the 1997 Champions League winner back in Europe's premier competition after a year's absence.

Bayern Munich and Bayer Leverkusen had already wrapped up the two secure berths and third-place Berlin one of two qualifying berths.

Dortmund beat Moenchengladbach 2-0 with veteran Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat scoring both goals.

"At the start of the day, I wouldn't have said we have a realistic chance [of qualifying]," said Dortmund coach Michael Skibbe.

Kaiserslautern and Wolfsburg have to settle for the UEFA Cup next season.

Kaiserslautern's on-field surrender, amidst a heat wave hitting Germany, also gave a five-way relegation battle an improbable loser in Nuremberg.

Nuremberg entered play in 12th place, three points ahead of 16th-place Frankfurt and a seemingly safe five scores ahead in goal differential.

But Nuremberg fell 2-1 to 14th-place Freiburg, Stuttgart and Rostock won and Frankfurt erased the huge goal deficit with Kaiserslautern's abdication to pull even.

Nuremberg, relegated because it scored less goals,

didn't have its fate decided until Danish international Jan Aage Fjortoft's 88th minute goal for Frankfurt — a daisy cutter under the body of diving keeper Andreas Reincke.

"We've reached bottom," said Nuremberg coach Friedel Rausch. "Deep inside I didn't believe we could be demoted."

In other matches, Bayern Munich recovered from the shock of its Champions League final loss to Manchester United to beat Bayer Leverkusen 2-1 and third-place Berlin capped its excellent season with a 6-1 rout of Hamburg.

Rostock also edged Bochum 3-2 and Schalke slipped past 1860 Munich 5-4.

Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld called the victory against Leverkusen, from Mario Basler and Mehmet Scholl's goals, important for a team stunned by its shocking last-minute loss to Manchester in the Champions League.

The team, which still has to play the German Cup final on June 6, had broken out in some public bickering following the Barcelona defeat.

"The team has proved the togetherness is big on the team and that calm has returned since Barcelona," said Hitzfeld.

Lanky striker Michael Preetz had a hat trick for Berlin, giving the German national team player 23 goals and the golden cannon as the season's leading marksman.

Wolfsburg's rout at Duisburg didn't dampen the team's spirit.

"We had a sensational season — there wasn't more to be had this year," said Coach Wolfgang Wolf, who has the best coach's name in the league.

UK

SCOTS TO GAIN EXTRA PLACE IN UEFA CUP

Scotland is "99.99% certainly" to gain an extra place in next season's UEFA Cup after establishing a virtually unassailable lead in UEFA's fair-play competition, a UEFA spokesman said.

"The only thing that could now stop Scotland winning the extra place is a technicality," said spokesman Frans Ahlstrom after a meeting of UEFA's executive committee.

"Unless we receive some late reports from match delegates which change the points standings, an extra Scottish team will be in next season's competition."

The extra place will go to Kilmarnock, which finished fourth in the premier league. The three above them have already clinched berths in Europe.

Two more teams will also win a place in next season's UEFA Cup but, while Scotland will know its situation on June 1, the two other countries will have to wait until June 9 to know whether they have been lucky enough to qualify.

A draw will be made at halftime in the international between Switzerland and Italy in Lausanne.

Eight nations — England, Norway, Ukraine, Finland, Estonia, Denmark, Sweden and Germany — will go into the hat. Two countries will be drawn and the team that has won the fair-play leagues in those countries will qualify.

This season's European champions will also be invited by UEFA to take part in the new world club championship, which will take place from January 5 to 14 next year, probably in Brazil.

UEFA also ratified the newly-revised timetable of matches involving countries from the Balkan region and confirmed that a match between the Republic of Ireland and Yugoslavia scheduled for Dublin on June 5 would definitely go ahead.

General Secretary Gerhard Aigner also reported that UEFA had reached its target of 800 million Swiss francs to sponsor next season's expanded Champions' League competition.

Aigner said the target figure had been reached even though negotiations with some TV partners had not yet been finalised.

A foundation aimed at fighting violence in soccer is also being established after a proposal from the German Football Federation (DFB).

It will be named the Daniel Nivel Foundation after the French policeman who was seriously injured during the World Cup last year.

The German federation is providing 500,000 marks to establish its funding, with UEFA and FIFA contributing 200,000 marks each and the French soccer federation contributing 100,000 marks.

Sir Elton John missed yesterday's big playoff at Wembley. For the singer, who has put so much into Watford, it must have been heartbreaking.

Watford's Australian midfielder Richard Johnson said: "After everything he's done for Watford, it would be a great shame if the chairman missed out on Monday."

"Getting to Wembley has only happened once before in the club's history and I would imagine it will break his heart. If he manages to watch the game on television, I just hope we can make his day for him by winning the game and going up."

Sir Elton will still take great pride in watching former England boss Taylor lead out Watford at Wembley again.

Together they built the club from Fourth Division anonymity to championship runners-up behind

Liverpool in 1983.

Their initial era spawned players like such as John Barnes.

Failed West Bromwich Albion manager Denis Smith has emerged from an emergency board meeting at The Hawthorns with his job intact.

Smith has been under fire since the end of a dismal season for Albion. He said: "There's been a lot going on behind the scenes which has made it difficult for everybody concerned."

"But I've always known I'm capable of doing the job required of me."

One of Smith's former clubs, Sunderland, have mercilessly sent him up, describing Smith, inter alia, as one of the worst managers in the club's history. His record certainly suggests that as a manager, he has been an extraordinary failure.

Unlucky Richard Langley has been told he must train all through the summer if he wants to be fit enough to play for Queens Park Rangers next season.

The 18-year-old midfielder, who missed the club's final games in the battle against relegation, has had to have a second operation on his knee.

Remember Chris Kwomya? The big striker hopes this hat-trick which helped save QPR from relegation will be enough to earn him a new contract at Loftus Road.

The former Arsenal and Ipswich striker made it six goals in his past 12 games when he guided them to a 6-0 victory over Crystal Palace. "I'm waiting to see if QPR come to me, but I'm hoping they will," Kwomya said.

"I've got my fingers crossed because I would like to stay. The fans have been great to me and if they offer me something, I would be happy with that."

"I've learned from Gerry Francis in the short time I've spent with him and I can still be a better player."

Kwomya spent several miserable seasons at Arsenal after making his name at Ipswich and failed to play a first-team game in his last two years at Highbury.

"Arsenal was difficult for me and they made it difficult to move on, which was the most disappointing thing," he said. "Then I got a chance at QPR but within two weeks I picked up an Achilles injury."

"Thankfully, Gerry has given me a chance and Sunday's hat-trick reminded me of those days with Ipswich in the Premiership. Now I hope I can get back to my best."

Francis will begin talks with Kwomya and Danny Maddox later this week and the manager said: "We haven't been able to negotiate their contracts because if we had gone down, we wouldn't have been able to afford them."

"It's been a bloody hard six months. But now we know where we are, I will be talking to Danny and Chris."

"If we had gone down, other players would have had to have gone, so it's a very big step for us from a financial point of view. It's definitely one of the most important results in the history of QPR."

"But my real job starts now. It's great everyone's going home happy and celebrating but I don't consider celebrating avoiding relegation the right way to go."

CLEAN OUT ON TYNESIDE

Newcastle's exciting Peruvian Norberto Solano is the target of Spanish club Valencia. The Spaniards are ready to make a bid for the captain of Peru signed by former boss Kenny Dalglish a mere 12 months ago.

The 24-year-old, one of many Newcastle players who failed to live up to their billing in the FA Cup Final defeat, could be allowed to leave as part of Ruud Gullit's major rebuilding programme.

Solano's name, however, does not feature on Gullit's official list of those who are heading for the exit door.

The 11 who have been told they can go are: Philippe Albert, Andreas Andersson, Nikos Dabizas, Stuart Elliott, George Georgiadis, Des Hamilton, Rob Lee, Lionel Perez, Stuart Pearce, Alessandro Pistone and Carl Serrant.

Eight of them were bought by Dalglish with six of them costing a total of 12m — Pearce and Perez arrived on free transfers.

Gullit accepts he will struggle to get anywhere near that amount back, although he was in Stuttgart attempting to rekindle a deal for Swedish striker Andersson.

The Germans are willing to pay around 2.5m for the former AC Milan forward who has been a massive flop on Tyneside.

Centre back Dabizas is wanted by his former club Olympiakos, who are also interested in United's other Greek star Georgiadis.

Italian defender Pistone, another expensive flop at pounds 4.5m, has been on loan to Venezia. But the Italians cannot afford the sort of money Newcastle are looking to recoup.

There are only two players on the way out who were signed by the Dalglish's predecessor Kevin Keegan — Albert and Lee.

Former Belgian international defender Albert enjoyed a successful loan spell with Fulham as they stormed to the Second Division championship.

And, although Keegan was not going to push through a permanent deal, new boss Paul Bracewell well might.

And Albert could find himself heading back to Craven Cottage with former England ace Lee.

Bracewell played in the same Newcastle midfield as the ex-United skipper and remains a fan. The

Geordies want around pounds 1m for Lee, but will probably have to settle for half that.

Gullit is totally re-shaping the squad he inherited from Dalglish. His two new buys, the defensive duo of Elena Marcelino and Alain Goma, will be unveiled within the next few days.

And the Dutchman is ready to follow up that pounds 10m double swoop with a raid on Fiorentina for Portuguese striker Rui Costa.

Meanwhile, Middlesbrough boss Bryan Robson has set his heart on a new central midfield partnership of former Boro star Emerson and old Manchester United mate Paul Ince.

Emerson, who can leave Tenerife for 3m, has been lined up for a return to Teesside despite the fact that he went AWOL during his initial stay. Robbo has also made progress on the Ince front and hopes to push through a 2.5m deal for the Liverpool man during the summer.



Lee Sharpe is in danger of being priced out of a return to the Premiership with Bradford City.

The newly-promoted Yorkshire club agreed a 1.5million fee with Leeds when they took him on loan for the last two months of the season.

But now any chance of a permanent switch for the 27-year-old former Manchester United winger has been placed in jeopardy.

Bradford chairman Geoffrey Richmond has set a 10,000-a-week wage limit for new signings, despite promising to raise pounds 15million to help Paul Jewell avoid an instant return to the Nationwide League next season.

That would mean Sharpe having to agree to a pounds 5,000-a-week pay cut if he wants to remain at Valley Parade next season.

Sharpe is currently on pounds 15,000-a-week at Leeds and still has two years of his contract still to run, despite being told he has no future at Elland Road by David O'Leary. He has held preliminary discussions with Jewell about his future, but Richmond is unwilling to commit financial suicide by raising the club's wage bill to dangerous levels.

Manchester City boss Joe Royle is still interested in Sharpe, but that depends heavily on play-off final success against Gillingham.

UK FOOTBALL IN CHAOS

Football has been thrown into "chaos" and "confusion" by the Government's move to relax the rules on work permits for foreign players, a Labour MP said in the House of Commons.

Joe Ashton, M.P. for Bassettlaw said that the move had confused and complicated the terms of extended employment for 48 affected players from outside the European Union when their contracts expire on June 30.

Reports hinted at minister's planning to ease restrictions on the players, including minimum annual salary requirements. It has even been suggested that the measures have led to a group of foreign players receiving artificially inflated pay.

Mr Ashton, chairman of the All-Party Football Group and a vice-president of Sheffield Wednesday, asked the Government to make a statement on when the new bill would come into force.

Liverpool has completed the out 4million capture of Czech midfielder Vladimir Smicer.

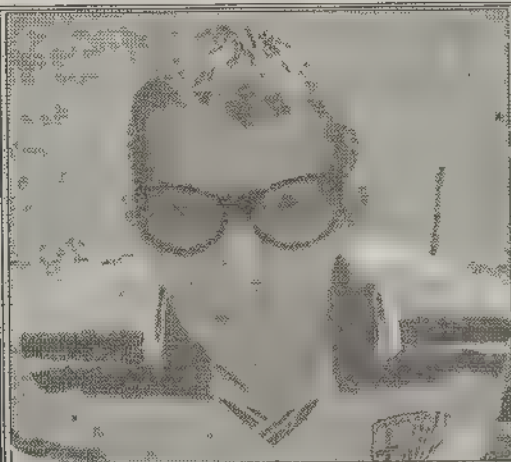
After a month of haggling, the 25-year-old was welcomed to Anfield on a five-year contract worth in excess of pounds 3million.

Liverpool, meanwhile, have turned down a proposed swap deal for Oyvind Leonhardsen from Spurs, who offered Allan Nielsen in part exchange.

Everton have agreed terms on a permanent contract with forward Kevin Campbell.

Campbell will sign a four-year contract worth 3.5million as soon as his Turkish club Trabzonspor appoint a new president and manager.

UK WITH CRAZY CRAIG WILSON



Cheeky chappy pop sensation Robbie Williams is a passionate Port Vale fan.

Born in the Potteries, he eschewed the attractions of Vale's rivals Stoke City despite the presence of Gordon Banks and Geoff Hurst. The reason: Bob's parents ran the Red Lion pub next door to Vale Park.

High in the charts with 'Millenium', which features the terrace chant 'Come and have a go if you think you are hard

enough', Williams rates another footy fan, Tom Jones, as his all time favourite singer.

"I've got loads of old footage of him dancing and he's such a mover," says the Robster. He goes as far as to say that his favourite Jones song is 'Delilah' - despite being famously adopted by

Stoke City fans.

Williams has a reputation for being a lippy little sod, and recently asked Gary Lineker if, when he was playing football in the street as a kid, he ever dreamed that one day he'd be advertising crisps.

Nevertheless, Williams is a regular on the charity football circuit and played against the best in games such as last years Paul Walsh testimonial - marking Gazza out of the game if the

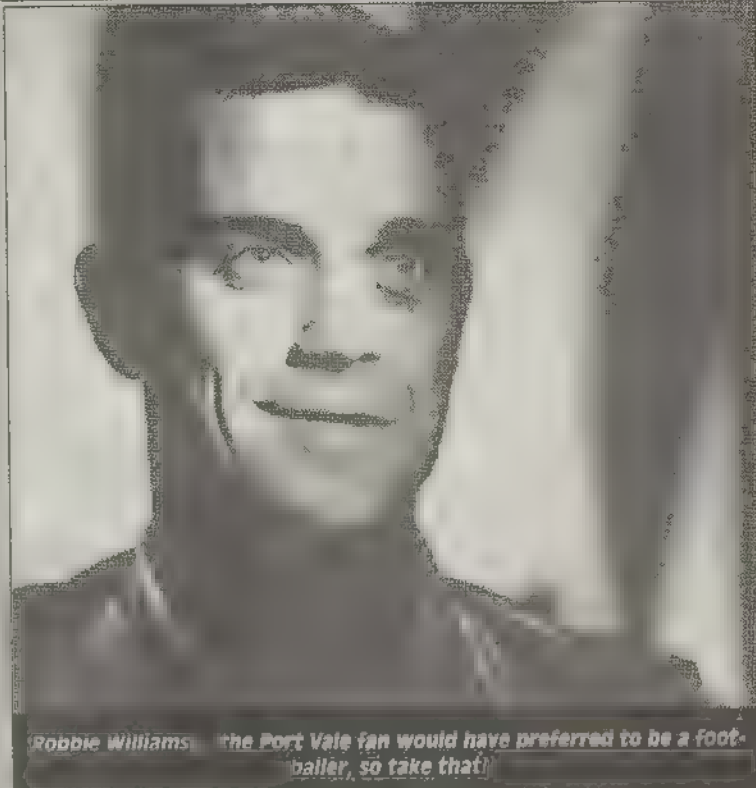
publicity is to be believed.

It seems the boy just can't get enough football. Having written a song for MATCH - who performed the official song of the Danish FA for France '98, Williams has recently been regretting his choice of becoming a pop singer. "I'd like to have been a footballer," he lamented. "Y'know, footballers think they'd like to be rock stars and vice versa, but I'd like to think I'd be playing for...Juventus."

If nothing else, Williams will probably go down in history as the thinnest Port Vale fan. Phil Taylor and Eric Bristow, both ex-Darts World Champions, used to regularly go to matches in the early 1980s.

Talking of the wild world of pop, Manchester United have cashed in on the triple with an Oasis sound-alike single 'Lift It High'.

How Noel and Liam - Man City supporters - feel about this has



Robbie Williams - the Port Vale fan would have preferred to be a footballer, so take that!

gone unreported. Meanwhile ex-Bristol City striker Andy Cole is used to being hounded for his signature by fans.

But now record company executives are after his autograph on a contract that will make Cole the next Will Smith.

WEA have apparently landed the striker, and the company are busy remoulding Cole into a slick R&B act in the mould of Puff Daddy or Ma\$e.

The Crazy office only hopes he has more control over his voice than his first touch on the ball, and suggest he consider a duet with Schmeichel Jackson. Perhaps a cover of 'Stam by your'?

Could this be a back door move to destabilise the NATO war effort? Having recently reported on efforts by a Serbian businessman to buy out Dundee, First Division Portsmouth are the latest British club to be linked with a Yugoslav purchaser.

Florida based tycoon Milan Mandaric has reportedly bought out Pompey and promised to pay off the considerable debts left over from the Venables era.

The Portsmouth Evening News reports that the club owe 7.3 million to creditors. Administrators brought in to run Pompey have revealed that the club have 300 creditors ranging from schools to local businesses.

The 4000 owed to schools is mostly for use of playing fields for youth training sessions, while at the other end of the scale Portsmouth FC owe 12 000 to Hampshire Police, and 800 000 to the taxman.

Australian players are also listed in the roster of creditors.

Craig Foster was owed 150 000, and while there was apparently 56 000 owed to Marconi in unpaid transfer fees, Pompey trumped that with an outstanding 197 000 owed to Cremonese for John Aloisi.

The catalogue of mismanagement makes fascinating reading, and for those with an accountant's head for figures, a complete list of unfortunate creditors can be found at the following web-site:

<http://www.thenews.co.uk/sport/pompeydebt.htm>

Ever wondered why Dundee United fans are known as Arabs? According to popular theory it goes back to the winter of 1962/63; one of the coldest on record. Until that time, United had always been referred to as 'The Terrors'.

On February 9 1963, 57 matches were called off in England and Scotland, with the entire Scottish programme wiped out, and only seven games taking place in Britain.

Between the end of December and the beginning of March United only managed to play three games. When a cup tie with Albion Rovers was also threatened, the club grounds-men brought in a tar burner to melt the several inches of ice and snow on the pitch, and then spread the surface with a few tons of sand.

Not an inch of grass could be seen, but the team adapted to the new surface with ease, and won the tie 3-0.

This didn't go unnoticed across the Tannadice Road at Dundee, where Dark Blues fans quickly dubbed their rivals 'The Arabs'.

Email Crazy Craig at magicsponge@hotmail.com



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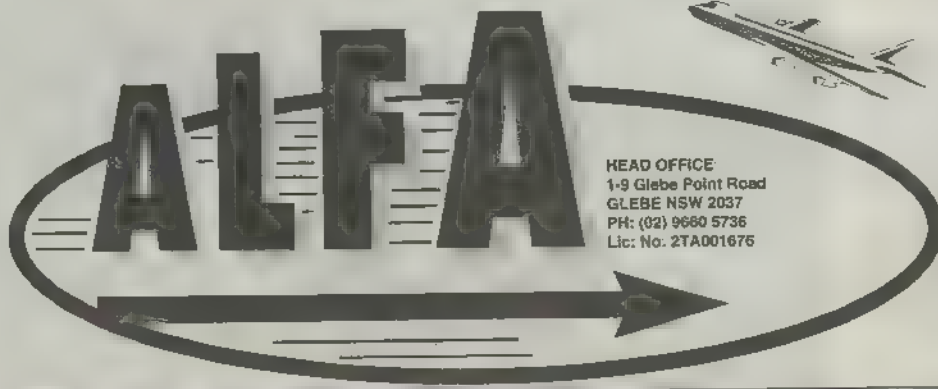
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Soccer Weekly

BAYERN SAVAGED BY GERMAN PRESS

The shocked and disbelieving headlines in the German newspapers said it all the morning after Manchester United came back deep into injury time to beat Bayern Munich 2-1 in last night's European Cup Final.

A simple 'Oh No!' — in English — from Germany's most popular daily, Bild Zeitung, characterised the German reaction after late goals from Manchester United substitutes Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

'We were only 13 seconds away. Isn't that bitter. Simply inconceivable. Football can be so cruel,' Bild continued, with a picture of dejected Bayern Munich midfielder Stefan Effenberg.

The German side, leaders from the sixth minute through a direct free-kick from Mario Basler, were on the verge of winning the European Cup for the fourth time.

'Bayern thought all their dreams had come true,' the Bonn local newspaper General Anzeiger said. Its rival, the Bonn Express, said the result was 'terrible, absolutely terrible.'

'Bavaria is in mourning and so are we.'

While Man Utd covered themselves in glory, ITV and their coverage scored an own goal with their viewers.

Football Task Force chairman David Mellor said ITV's coverage of the Champions League Final was so bad they should hand all their sport over to Sky or the BBC.

He said: 'For what will go down as one of the greatest



events in sporting history, ITV's coverage was cack-handed and flimsy.

'If ITV can't do the occasion justice, they might as well get out of the game completely and go back to the

films they intended showing when they scrapped News at Ten.'

Some 18.8 million tuned in for United's last-gasp 2-1 victory over Bayern Munich but fans were angry that

they couldn't soak up every second of the celebrations because of poor camerawork and the disruption caused by commercial breaks.

Dozens of fans registered their anger with TV watchdogs and ITV companies after coverage was interrupted for a tyre advert just as stand-in captain Peter Schmeichel and manager Alex Ferguson were lifting the trophy to complete their Treble.

Businessman and United fan Les Billingham said: 'The one disappointing thing about it was when the Cup was being lifted, ITV cut to a break.'

'I was watching with about 250 others and everybody was so bitterly disappointed. That was the team's crowning glory and we couldn't see it.'

There were also complaints that the cameras switched away from United legend Sir Bobby Charlton just as he went to wipe away a tear. ITV bosses defended their coverage, with Head of Football Jeff Farmer saying: 'What fans have to remember is that they saw this match for free — there was no licence fee or subscription and the only reason for that is that the game is paid for by advertisers.'

He admitted there was 'never a perfect time' for a commercial break but said they had done their best to minimise the disruption. 'It is a very difficult call,' he said.

An average of 15.5m — six in 10 viewers — watched the full coverage. But millions more had tuned in by the time Terry Sheringham equalised, taking the audience to 18.8m.

An ITV spokeswoman said: 'It was by far the highest viewing figures for a sporting event this year.'

The record for a football match belongs to England's World Cup second-round game last year against Argentina, which was seen by 23m people.

INCREDIBLE SAYS BRITISH PRESS

Teddy Sheringham spoke about the incredible arrogance of the Germans, something that stirred him up for a special finish at the Nou Camp.

England striker Sheringham, who came off the bench to score one of the most important goals in the club's history, admitted it was the sight of the Bayern Munich players arrogantly waving to their fans with 25 minutes to go which fuelled the resolve for United's late onslaught.

And he also insisted that United's victory was down to a passionate half-time speech in the Nou Camp dressing room by United manager Alex Ferguson, who sent his players out for the second half with the words 'don't come back here if you haven't given your all' ringing in their ears.

But it was the arrogant wave of German striker Mario Basler which really got under the skin of United's players.

'I saw Basler walking over to take a corner waving to his fans,' said Sheringham, with a sneer which displayed his true feelings for the smug Germans.

'I still wasn't on the pitch and he was doing that. I wasn't best pleased, so it was even sweeter to win the game like we did.'

It was a sentiment shared by United's pounds 10million Dutch defender Jaap Stam, who said: 'I couldn't believe it when I saw them a couple of minutes from the end and they were all waving to the crowd like they felt they had won it already.'

'Of course, when you see that you want to do everything to get the equaliser.'

Manchester online ran with the headline: MANCHESTER UNITED — CHAMPIONS OF EUROPE! Doesn't it just look and sound good!

They went on to say: 'The incomparable history-

making Reds have written a fantasy finish to their glorious treble success that was beyond belief even by their own outrageously dramatic standards.'

'Where do you begin with the plaudits for such a phenomenal side and such an exceptional achievement?'

'Start with A for Amazing and work your way through the dictionary. There are plenty of worthwhile words to describe United. But only those five words at the start really matter.'

'The Reds are the European Champions and this is the dawn of an era of potential Continental dominance by Alex Ferguson's team.'

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson deserves a knighthood after the English club's triumphant treble-winning season, British sports minister Tony Banks said.

'If anyone asks my opinion...yes, he most certainly should,' Banks told BBC radio when asked whether Ferguson should be awarded a knighthood for winning the European Cup like one of his predecessors at the club, Sir Matt Busby. Banks was in attendance for the big game.

Franz Beckenbauer admitted Manchester United deserved their dramatic victory over Bayern Munich in the European Cup Final.

Beckenbauer, who played for Bayern in their three European Cup victories from 1974 to 1976 and is now their president, said the nature of the 2-1 defeat in Barcelona was a 'cruel' experience but added that the best team had won.

'That was the cruellest defeat possible because victory was so close. We already had victory in the bag and there were only a few seconds to go.'



Bally arrogant Bosch, says Edward Sheringham.

'But those few seconds were enough for Manchester to get back into the game. We were playing well in the last 20 minutes and should have been able to hold on to victory. But in the end, Manchester deservedly won.'

Bayern's Brazilian striker Giovane Elber, who missed the Final through injury, said: 'This defeat really hurts. We tried so hard and did not deserve to lose in such a way.'

Goalscorer Mario Basler, whose sixth-minute strike looked to have sealed the match for the Germans before Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's injury-time heroics, was devastated at losing out on a winner's medal.

'Three minutes brought our downfall and it's a clear example of how bad football can be,' he said. 'The whole team should have played more coolly during the final minutes.'

SCOTTISH CUP FINAL



RANGERS EDGE OUT CELTIC



RANGERS' TRIPLE GIVES THEM HOPE FOR EURO SUCCESS

RANGERS	1
Wallace 49	
CELTIC	0

By Soccer Weekly & Agencies

They did the treble in 1993, and six years later, with a team largely of foreign talent, Glasgow Rangers has done it again.

Rod Wallace got his 27th goal of the season after four minutes of the second half, scoring with a left-footed volley from five yards that got behind Celtic goalkeeper Jonathan Gould.

Wallace joined the club last summer on a free transfer from English side Leeds and has been the top signing for first-year Dutch coach Dick Advocaat.

"That's what dreams are made of," Wallace said. "I've had a dream season."

The match was played under tight security following a May 2 game between the two that Rangers won 3-0 to take the league title. More than 100 fans were arrested and referee Hugh Dallas' head was gashed by a coin thrown from the stands.

This match went off without incident on the field with Dallas again in charge.

The most controversial play came in the 88th minute when Rangers captain Lorenzo Amoroso - standing in the box - was struck in the upper arm/shoulder area by a driving shot that was headed for the goal. Celtic players called for a penalty for a handball but Dallas waved it off.

Advocaat, who took over after Rangers failed to win anything last season under Walter Smith, said he "couldn't see" the disputed play.

"We didn't expect this when the season started at the beginning, but we took all the prizes and we're very happy."

"I only drink when we win a trophy, maybe people think I'm an alcoholic," Advocaat added.

Amoroso said the ball "just caught my chest" and said it was no penalty. "No problem, no problem," he emphasized.

Playing for the fifth time this season (one victory

each and two draws), both sides had a scoring chance in an evenly played first half before a 52,000 sellout at newly refurbished Hampden Park.

Celtic's Paul Lambert hit the crossbar on a long volley in the 21st minute and Wallace broke into the box all alone in the 27th only to lose control of the ball.

Rangers, who have won the league title 10 of the last 11 seasons, pulled off the same treble in 1993.

The Scottish Cup title was Rangers' 28th with Celtic still leading with 30. It was also the 13th time Scotland's two most bitter rivals have met in this final with Celtic having won the previous three times. Celtic still leads 7-6 in those showdowns.

Lorenzo Amoroso has promised never to let Rangers suffer more Champions League embarrassment and insists that he can captain the club to European silverware within three years.

Following too many humbling campaigns in Europe, an Amoroso-led Rangers clawed back some respectability for the club's name on the Continent with a highly commendable UEFA Cup run this season and, of course, they have now completed the domestic Treble.

The Italian can look forward to a Champions League assault next season in which Rangers will have two qualifying rounds against strong opposition.

But Amoroso boasts that this attempt can be the first step on the road to an unbelievable feat and will make up for all the disappointments since 1993.

"This team in the future can be great in Europe," said Amoroso. "But it is impossible to say that next season we will go to the Champions League and win it."

"I hope for myself and the Scottish fans that we can but this is the first season when everyone is together. You have to go step by step to improve and then build up to win the European Cup."

"In three or four years we can do that. We have a chairman with a lot of money who wants to improve the team and has a strong character. We have a manager who wants to win all the time and has all the training and tactics. And we have players who are

angry at not winning in Europe and desperate for victory."

"We have won the Treble and because we did well in Europe, a lot of top foreign players will want to come here."

Thrashings by Juventus, IFK Gothenburg and Ajax left Rangers' stock in European football at a low before Dick Advocaat began at Ibrox.

But his revolution has started to change the minds of Amoroso's countrymen who previously belittled his achievements.

"Let them talk in Italy," said Amoroso. "If they think that Lorenzo has no chance to win or go through, then I can show them they are wrong."

"People at home do not appreciate what I have done. A couple of weeks ago, the Italian national coach said some things against me - that I had done a good job in Scotland but that it was only Scotland."

"They don't know what the football is like. They just think about Scottish football as it was ten years ago."

"We can convince people if we go through to the semi-final or beat a Spanish or Italian team - then everyone must change his mind. We'll give them a bad time."

Enrico Chiesa said after Parma won the UEFA Cup that his most difficult game was against Rangers.

"Playing as we did against Bayer Leverkusen and



Skipper Lorenzo Amoroso celebrates with Ian Ferguson.

the first half in Parma, brings confidence to do well in any country."

That, however, will be the real test of this team and worth some genuine celebration. For the moment though, the fans are loving their treble winning side as much as Man Utd's fans are south of the border.

DICK EXTENDS AND RANGERS ARE HAPPY

Dick Advocaat topped Rangers' Treble celebrations by announcing he has signed a two-year extension to his contract and will be Ibrox manager until at least the summer of 2002.

Minutes after a Rod Wallace goal had given his team a 1-0 victory over Celtic and the clean sweep of domestic trophies, Advocaat had an extra special treat for the jubilant Rangers supporters and his players.

He had kept the deal, struck with David Murray on Thursday, a secret from the squad to maintain a typically professional and studied attitude to the Hampden fixture.

Defeated Celtic boss Dr Jozef Venglos had similar news after a final in which there was thankfully no repeat of the disgraceful scenes which marred the Old Firm title decider. Venglos will be staying with Celtic next season but refused to say exactly in what capacity.

Said Advocaat: "We agreed terms on two extra years last Thursday. It is not only important for me but for the whole team around Rangers that we know what we have to do for the next three years."

"You cannot expect that we can do everything in one or two years. It takes much more time and I will be here for that."

"We understand that we still must improve the squad to compete in Europe but I have been told that we must sell before we can buy."

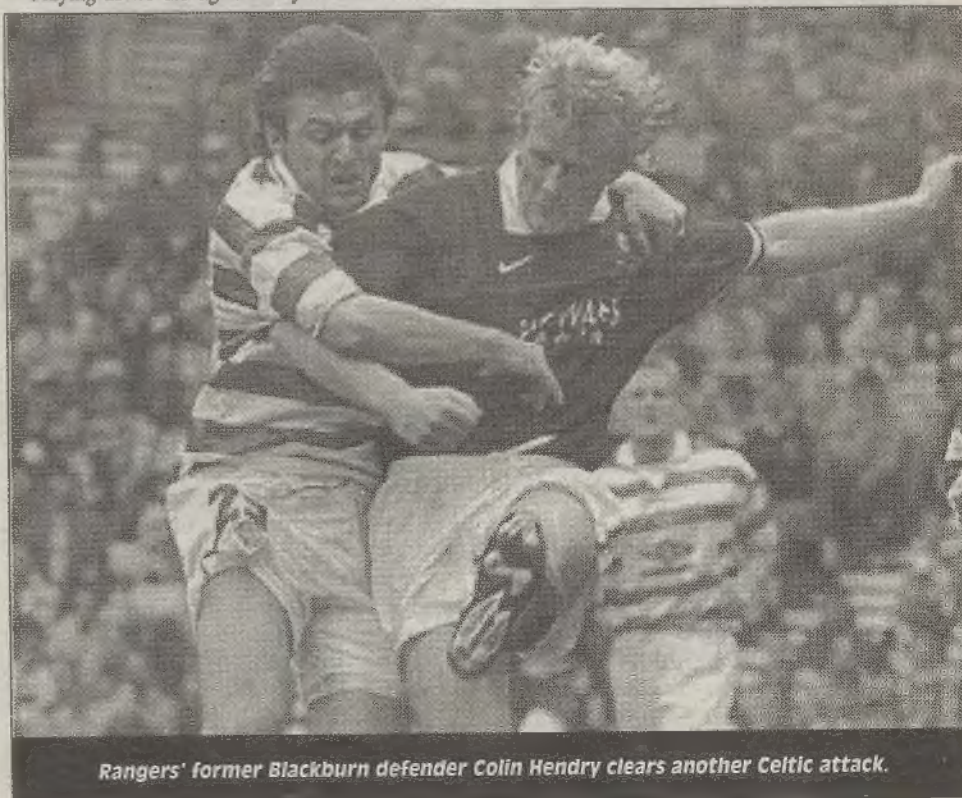
"This whole team has worked so hard in what has been a long and difficult season and I am very proud."

Most of the signings have fitted in well and when we needed to get someone else, like Neil McCann, the chairman made it possible."

Midfielder Giovanni van Bronckhorst led the chorus of approval for Advocaat's decision to commit himself to Rangers. "It is important for players to know if they have signed for many years, that the manager is there, too. We can only get stronger from here."

"He did not tell us the news this week because that was the time for training. But we had a good feeling he would stay."

Colin Hendry ruled himself out of Scotland's internationals in June and undergoes a groin operation early this week. Neil McCann is expected to follow suit with a knee problem.



Rangers' former Blackburn defender Colin Hendry clears another Celtic attack.

Compiled by

Soccer Weekly

UK

League Highlights

SCUNTHORPE DO THE BUSINESS IN PLAYOFFS

Brian Laws' Scunthorpe success at Wembley was particularly sweet, especially after missing out as a player with Forest.

Having narrowly missed out on automatic promotion, the former Nottingham Forest defender guided Scunthorpe to the Second Division thanks to a sixth-minute header by overseas signing Alex Calvo Garcia.

The Spaniard, who arrived at Scunthorpe on a free transfer from Eibar in 1996, rose at the near post to send a glancing header from Gareth Sheldon's cross beyond the diving Scott Barrett and into the far corner.

United dominated the first half, with 19-year-old Sheldon a constant threat, but the tables were turned after the interval as Orient fought hard for an equaliser.

Several ambitious penalty appeals were turned down before Craig Maskell, one of two substitutes sent on by the Londoners at the break, fed Steve Watts three yards out. His close-range shot was bravely blocked at the near post by goalkeeper Tom Evans. Amara Simba, Orient's 37-year-old former French international striker, saw his follow-up effort cannon away

from the danger zone off a defender. Then, with four minutes left and United desperately hanging on, sub Alex Inglethorpe was found in space by Simba 12 yards out but his angled drive was parried away by Evans.

Tommy Taylor's side threw everything at their opponents in the second half but try as they might, they could not find the goal that would have sent the game into extra time.

But Scunthorpe almost put the icing on the cake in stoppage time when Darryn Stamp had two goalbound efforts blocked on the line by Martin Ling.

As his side basked in their first promotion in 16 years, Laws, with four Wembley wins in his days as a Forest player, reflected on his roller-coaster managerial ride.

Like his mentor Brian Clough he does not take the simple approach.

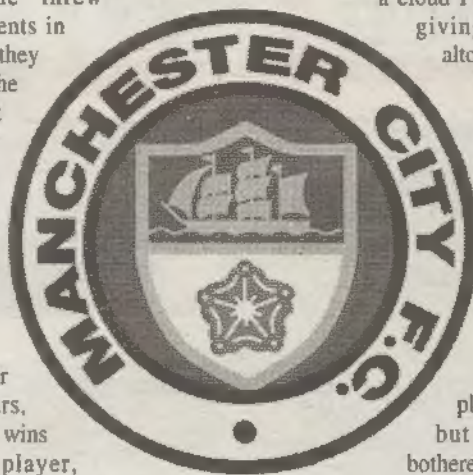
A much-publicised dressing-room row with Italian Ivano Bonetti nearly wrecked his fledgling career at Grimsby and led to his dismissal a few months later.

'After leaving Grimsby under a bit of a cloud I did seriously consider giving up football altogether,' he said.

'I just want success for my teams. As a manager you have to live life on the edge and that's how I like it.'

'The club have been waiting a long, long time for promotion. I was worried sick for my players before the match but I need not have bothered.'

Scunthorpe did not disappoint their manager although he admits their slender winning margin may have added a few grey hairs.



BARTHEZ AND NOT BOZZA?

Treble champions Manchester United are ready to stun goalkeeper Mark Bosnich by signing French World Cup winner Fabien Barthez.

Aussie Bosnich travelled to Old Trafford on Friday for talks with United manager Alex Ferguson and chairman Martin Edwards.

But the Aston Villa man, widely expected to replace Danish superstar Peter Schmeichel, is now unlikely to return to the club he first joined when he arrived from Sydney 10 years ago.

Bosnich would cost nothing under the Bosman freedom of movement ruling, while Ferguson will have to splash out £5 million to prise Barthez away from Monaco, where he still has three years of his contract to

run. But Barthez believes he is Old Trafford-bound.

He said: 'There's a good offer on the table from England. There's also strong interest from Italy and Spain but I have made up my mind to play in the English Premier League. I just hope Monaco will now respect my ambitions.'

'I've given a lot to French football. I'd now like to move to England to fulfil my career.'

Ferguson refuses to compromise for financial reasons his belief that he must find the best 'keeper in the world to replace Schmeichel. And that makes Barthez, the 27-year-old whose shaven head made him instantly recognisable at France '98, the priority choice to follow the giant Dane, who

played his last game for United in Wednesday's European Champions League final.

Barthez's passage to Old Trafford could even be smoothed by Schmeichel moving in the opposite direction. He favours a switch to the Principality and life in the French League.

Ironically, since announcing his intention to quit Old Trafford last November, Schmeichel has pinpointed Barthez as his ideal replacement.

'There were some outstanding performers at France '98,' said Schmeichel. 'And I felt that Barthez was the best.'

Joe Royle is right when he says the play-offs are all about money.

Manchester City expect to bank £350,000 from the Wembley showdown against Gillingham. And promotion to the First Division should generate a £2million windfall in season tickets, merchandising and marketing for a club who have been to hell and back.

They have been on their uppers for far too long, so that is not a bad pay day. Even Royle would vouch for that.

'I've never been a fan of the play-off system. It starts and ends with money,' says the former City favourite who came back 15 months ago with a mandate to stop the rot.

Things got worse before they got better, with City sinking into the equivalent of the old Third Division and the lowest point in their history.

A week before Christmas they were still trying to overcome the culture shock and even the play-offs looked beyond them. Then the bandwagon, now without so much of the dead wood and despondency that had dragged the club further into the shadow of Manchester United, started to roll.

City climbed to third place, good enough for automatic promotion until the play-offs were introduced, but Royle said he would have settled for that route at Christmas and is confident his players will finish the job today.

What is different, very different is the new spirit of Manchester City that will infiltrate Wembley along with 40,000 fans who are sick of seeing red.

'Imagine the stick our fans have had to take on the shop floor this week,' says Maine Road director Dennis Tueart, who played alongside Royle the last time City won a major trophy at Wembley, back in 1976.

In fact, it was Tueart's spectacular overhead shot which gave City the winning goal in the League Cup Final against Newcastle United.

Now Tueart, who has been on the board for 18 months, says: 'Never mind what United have done, we're building our own success story. And we have to focus on that.'

'We're all fed up with the mistakes and the bad decisions which landed the club in trouble. But those days have gone. Even if we lose at Wembley it won't mean starting again.'

David Beckham, the most coveted of Manchester United's array of stars, refuses to contemplate life beyond Old Trafford.

Deep beneath the Nou Camp stadium, he emerged from the dressing room on Wednesday clutching the huge European Cup.

The 24-year-old Londoner deserved the honour of carrying the most prestigious trophy in club football for the first stage of a memorable journey back to England.

'I always want to be a Manchester United player,' said Mr Spice to selected UK press in the coach leaving the stadium last Wednesday night.

'When you achieve what we have this season why would you want anything else? Why go anywhere else? It couldn't get better wherever you went.'

The England midfielder could name

both his club and his price if ever his thoughts strayed from Old Trafford.

But parting from teammates such as Gary and Phil Neville, Nicky Butt and Paul Scholes, pals since their teenage years when he first arrived in Manchester from London, is not an option.

'What can you say?' he added. 'It's been particularly brilliant for myself and the rest of the lads who have come through first as schoolboys and then from the youth team upwards. We all wanted to be successful but this is unbelievable.'

'You can tell there is a great spirit, friendship and feeling of togetherness between us. For a group of young lads to grow up and go on to win titles, FA Cups and now the European Cup is a dream come true, amazing.'

Too right Beck, too right.



David Beckham ... has scotched the idea of playing on the Continent.



GRAND FINAL SPECIAL

FULL STORY PAGE 15

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE



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